



# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SCHOOLS



## Foundations of Restorative Justice

Restorative justice offers a different way of responding to harm and conflict. Instead of relying on punishment as a response, restorative justice seeks to repair harm and prevent future harm by inviting those who are identified as needing restoration into a process of active accountability.

- Beyond the individuals directly impacted by conflict or harm, restorative justice asks each of us to reflect on our collective responsibility for creating conditions that enable and foster harm and tasks us with supporting accountability and creating safer communities. By widening who is responsible and who is capable, restorative justice harnesses the power and wisdom of the wider community. Regardless of the setting, restorative justice seeks to increase safety by fostering healing. (1)

## Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Success

Evidence suggests that some restorative justice programs—when compared to traditional approaches—can reduce future delinquent behavior and produce greater satisfaction for victims. (2)

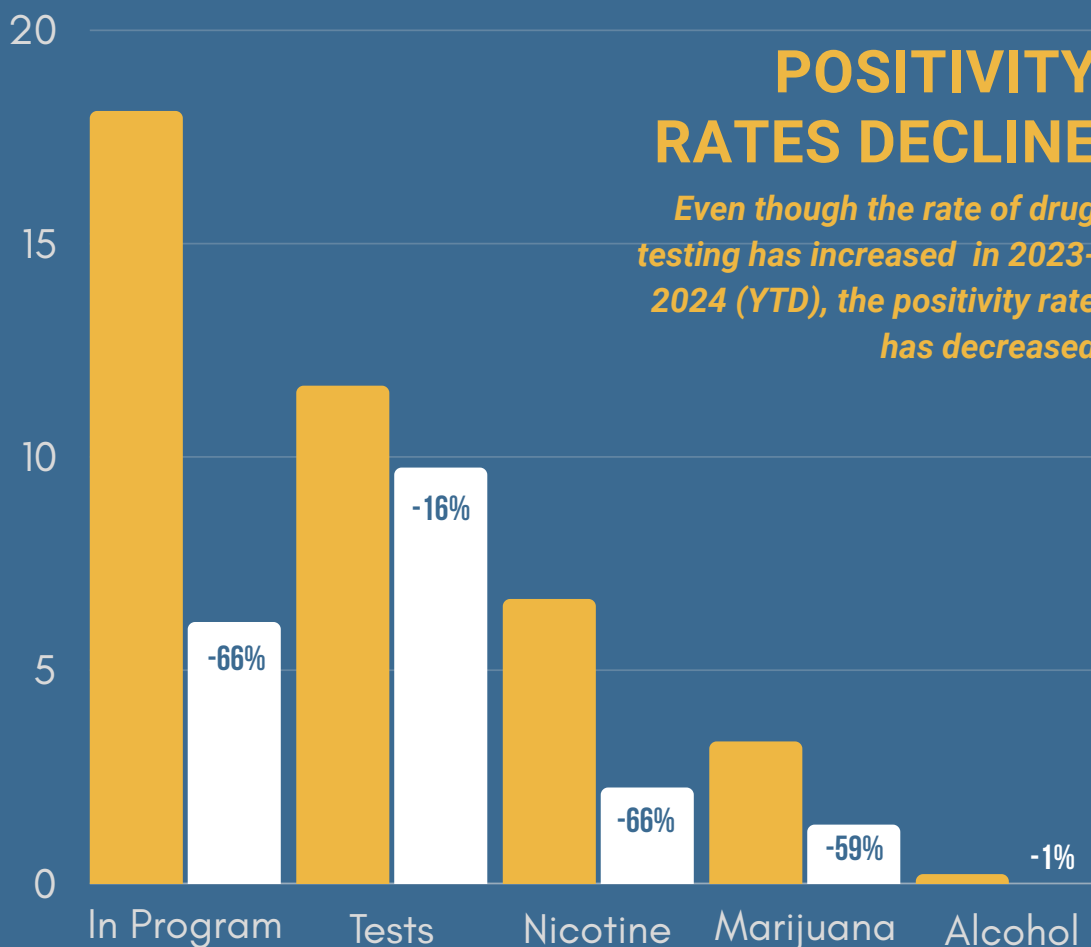
- Studies show the prevalence of exclusionary school discipline (suspension and expulsion) and school-based police contact predicted higher school levels of binge drinking, drinking, smoking, using cannabis, using other drugs, and violence/harassment. (3)

1. "Restorative Justice." Center for Restorative Justice. Accessed online: <https://www.innovatingjustice.org/areas-of-focus/restorative-justice>  
2. "Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Programs." OJJDP Funded Research in Brief. Accessed online: <chrome-extension://efaidhbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/250995.pdf>  
3. Prins, et. al. "Collateral consequences of the school-to-prison pipeline: Adolescent substance use and developmental risk." *Addictive Behaviors*: Volume 137, February 2023. Accessed online: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306460322002908>



## Examples of Restorative Justice Success in Tennessee

The Oneida School District in Scott County, Tennessee, in collaboration with the STAND Coalition, implemented a restorative justice program to address youth vaping and marijuana use with significant outcomes in reducing both youth vaping, and marijuana use, illustrated by the graph below.



The Anderson County and Oak Ridge School Districts, in collaboration with ASAP of Anderson, implemented a restorative justice vaping and tobacco cessation program with significant outcomes in increasing knowledge and perception of harm for both parents and students.

### Highlights

- Serving approximately 20 students and their parent/caregiver per month

**+26.1%**

Increased parent perception of harm

**+95.7%**

increased parent knowledge of vaping

**+83.3%**

program provided relevant info for students

**+87.5%**

increased student knowledge of harms of vaping

1. "Restorative Justice." Center for Restorative Justice. Accessed online: <https://www.innovatingjustice.org/areas-of-focus/restorative-justice>  
 2. "Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Programs." OJJDP Funded Research in Brief. Accessed online: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/grants/250995.pdf>  
 3. Prins, et. al. "Collateral consequences of the school-to-prison pipeline: Adolescent substance use and developmental risk." Addictive Behaviors: Volume 137, February 2023. Accessed online: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306460322002908>