



## Punitive vs. Restorative Approach to School Discipline

<b>Punitive</b>	<b>Restorative</b>
Misbehavior is defined as an individual choice to break school rules or to deviate from established behavior expectations.	Misbehavior is defined as harm done to one person/group by another as a result of a breakdown in community relationships and/or unconscious attempt to meet needs.
Focus is on what happened, establishing guilt, and fairly dispensing punishment to the wrongdoer(s).	Focus is on understanding feelings, needs, and responsibilities of <i>all</i> impacted individuals and exploring ways to bring about community healing.
Discipline interventions are focused on making the harmful behaviors stop, using increasingly restrictive and/or exclusionary consequences.	Discipline interventions aim to understand root causes of misbehavior and offer relational support for positive changes in behavior.
Discipline interventions decided on by one or more authority figures.	Discipline interventions emphasize collaboration with direct victims and other impacted persons regarding how their needs can be met.
Accountability defined in terms of receiving punishment.	Accountability defined as understanding impact of actions, taking responsibility for choices, and finding ways to repair harm and prevent future harm.
Imposed punitive consequences have the effect of shaming and stigmatizing students who have caused harm.	Restorative processes offer an opportunity for students who have caused harm to understand the source of their behavior, take responsibility for their choices, and to learn and grow from the experience.