Whole-School Uses of Circles

1. Tier 1 Circles: Building Relationships & Communities, Everyday Practices
   Reaffirming relationships in the school
   Universal: School-wide, 100% of the school community
   • Check-In Circles • Talking Circles • Community-Building Circles
   • Teaching Circles • Writing Circles

2. Tier 2 Circles: Problem-Solving and Issue-Focused
   Repair relationships at the first sign of things going wrong
   Targeted: As needs, problems, and issues arise
   • Circles of Understanding • Support Circles • Celebration Circles
   • Honoring Circles • Grief Circles • Reintegration Circles

3. Tier 3 Circles: Deal with Conflicts or Harms
   Rebuilding relationships in those out of balance
   Intensive: 1–5% of the school community
   • Circles of Understanding • Repairing Harm Circles
   • Healing Circles • Resolving Conflicts Circles
   • Reintegration Circles

Originating in the mental health field, this three-tiered pyramid concept builds on the work of Brenda Morrison (2007) and Peta Blood (2004), both of whom adapted the pyramid model to show how restorative practices can be most effectively used in schools. Kay Pranis has adapted their pyramid model to show how Circles can be used in schools on all three tiers.

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