



# THE VISION:

## SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS

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Every young person has the right to a high quality education, and to learn in a safe, respectful school environment that protects human dignity. To make these rights realities for all young people, we must end punitive, zero-tolerance approaches to discipline given the significant negative impact they have on learning, and on the community at large. There are alternatives to the use of out-of-school discipline practices that are proven to help create environments for students to be successful, while maintaining consistent and equitable accountability for their actions. Research-based alternatives to traditional school discipline also result in higher student attendance and lower suspension rates, which can increase school funding. Below is an overview of a few school-wide solutions that are being implemented successfully in California and nationwide. These practices work in concert with one another through a framework that is responsive to the needs of students and families.

### SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS (SWPBIS)

School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) is a comprehensive, school-wide research-based system<sup>1</sup> that is "based on the assumption that actively teaching and acknowledging expected behavior can change the extent to which students expect appropriate behavior from themselves and each other."<sup>2</sup>

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE & RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Inspired by indigenous values, Restorative Justice is a philosophy and theory of justice. In the education context, Restorative Justice uses Restorative Practices to build school community and prevents conflict by creating positive relationships. This is accomplished through the use of regular "restorative circles" where students and educators work together to set academic goals and develop core values for the classroom community.<sup>3</sup>

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Social Emotional Learning is the process of acquiring and effectively applying the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to recognize and manage one's own emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships, and handle challenging situations capably. Students are taught five key competencies which are actively modeled, practiced and reinforced in class, and during school instruction and programs.

### THESE COMPETENCIES ARE:

1. Self-awareness—Identification of one's own emotions
2. Social awareness—Empathy, respect for others

3. Responsible decision-making—Evaluation and reflection
4. Self-management—Impulse control, stress management, and persistence
5. Relationship skills—Cooperation and communication.<sup>4</sup>

## OTHER PROMISING STRATEGIES

Other promising alternatives, such as utilizing trauma-sensitive strategies and addressing implicit racial bias, have also been shown to improve school climate and student well-being, while reducing out-of-school discipline practices.

