

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Principals

**THRU:** David L. Legrand, Associate Superintendent of Student Support Services

**FROM:** Dr. Lisa Barnes, Executive Director of Student Discipline and Behavior Support

**DATE:** July 10, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Centrally Sponsored Restorative Conferences

We are excited to announce that we will begin offering centrally sponsored restorative conferences to address incidents of conflict, disagreement, and harm. Schools will have the option of holding conferences on their campuses or at our new conferencing center located at the lower Marie G. Davis campus.

A restorative conference is a structured meeting between offenders, victims, affected parties, parents, and supporters. During the conference, participants will discuss the consequences of negative behavior or wrongdoing and decide how best to repair the harm.

The conferences provide participants with an opportunity to confront issues, express feelings, ask questions and receive recommendations concerning the outcome. Offenders hear firsthand how their behavior has affected others. Offenders may choose to participate in a conference and begin to repair the harm they have caused by apologizing, making amends, and agreeing to terms discussed by those affected. Conferences hold offenders accountable while allowing them to reintegrate into the school community.

Process for requesting a restorative conference:

1. Use the following link to request a restorative conference. [Request for Restorative Conference Link](#) (You will be given a document to complete)
2. Email request to Latasha Smith-Valentine: [latasha.smith@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:latasha.smith@cms.k12.nc.us)
3. A Restorative Practice Specialist will review the request and decide if a restorative conference is recommended.
4. A Restorative Practice Specialist will contact families to explain the process, gain consent to participate, and schedule the conference time.

If you have questions or need more information on this new process, please reach out to your Community Administrator or to Latasha Smith-Valentine.