

**Representative Sandra Hollins** proposes the following substitute bill:

**HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
IN UTAH'S EDUCATION SYSTEM**

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Sandra Hollins**

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution of the House of Representatives encourages the State Board of Education and Utah's school districts to implement school-wide restorative justice practices in the state's public primary and secondary schools.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

► encourages the State Board of Education and Utah's school districts to implement restorative justice **practices** in Utah's public primary and secondary schools as a way to help Utah's students stay in school and deal with their challenges in a healthier and more constructive way.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, the pressure to do well in school and to comply with the expectations of parents and teachers can create great challenges and increased stress in a student's life;

WHEREAS, the necessity and challenge of forging meaningful relationships can add to the difficulties students face;



26 WHEREAS, a student's struggles can be further aggravated by the death of a parent, a  
27 divorce, abuse, or other traumatic circumstances and can sometimes lead to problematic  
28 behavior in school;

29 WHEREAS, studies show that suspension and expulsion, traditional methods of  
30 addressing disciplinary issues in schools, do not make schools safer and result in lower  
31 graduation rates and increased rates of involvement in the juvenile justice system, contributing  
32 to the school to prison pipeline;

33 WHEREAS, restorative justice is a values-based approach to community building,  
34 problem solving, and conflict resolution that is used in schools to build and restore  
35 relationships, create opportunities for dialogue, repair harm and transform conflict, and create  
36 just and equitable learning environments;

37 WHEREAS, restorative justice enhances school communities by incorporating values  
38 of respect, dignity, mutual concern, collaboration, and accountability into the school culture;

39 WHEREAS, restorative justice encourages students to engage in collaborative problem  
40 solving, which empowers students and gives them tools to effectively communicate beyond the  
41 school setting;

42 WHEREAS, restorative justice, in a school setting, shifts the emphasis from managing  
43 behavior to focusing on building, nurturing, and repairing relationships, while retaining the  
44 ability to hold students accountable;

45 WHEREAS, restorative justice focuses on the impact of students' behavior on other  
46 members of the school community, rather than only on rule breaking, and allows those  
47 impacted to find ways to repair the harm and restore damaged relationships, rather than  
48 imposing punishment;

49 WHEREAS, studies have shown that restorative justice practices can lead to reductions  
50 in problem behavior, improvements in school climate, and increases in student achievement,  
51 attendance, and graduation rates; and

52 WHEREAS, there is a continuum of proactive to responsive restorative practices,  
53 ranging from community-building circles to restorative conferencing, which are accessible to  
54 educators to successfully implement school-wide restorative justice practices:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
56 state of Utah encourages the State Board of Education and Utah's school districts to implement

57 school-wide restorative justice initiative practices in Utah's public primary and secondary  
58 schools.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of Utah's  
60 school districts and to the State Board of Education.