



## Case Study

# Bronx School District

 New York City, NY

The New York City Department of Education is actively implementing restorative practices across 180 middle and high schools in the city's Bronx borough. This initiative is led by Brian Bereman, director of restorative practices, and Carlos Muñoz, education administrator with the Office of Safety and Youth Development. Brian and Carlos's team supports the schools with restorative practices implementation. They also provide schools with guidance on discipline codes and furnish training and coaching in areas such as mediation and motivational interviewing.

### Categories of this case study

- K-12 Education
- Public Education
- Restorative Practices
- Student-Led Programming
- Combatting Misconceptions

Watch these videos to hear from students and staff in the Bronx about how restorative practices has impacted and improved their school environment and experience:

- [PS6X Elementary](#) – Peer Mediation
- [Fordham HS for the Arts BOND Program](#)
- [William Daley](#) – Social Worker
- [Tiawana Perez](#) – Former Principal of PS6X, current D11 Deputy Superintendent
- [Michael Johnson](#) – Principal, Fordham HS for the Arts

*“The ultimate goal is to build out the community enough so they are able to self-sustain, but it’s a slow build. Meeting the school where they’re at is the first step to get to that goal.” - Brian*

*“I think for us to continue to be connected to our students, care about our students, support and encourage and empower our students – restorative practices is the way.” - Carlos*

Focusing on building community and creating a foundation of trust across the schools, Brian and Carlos teach the importance of teachers and staff modeling appropriate behavior and strengthening relationships with students. This way, when harm does occur, it can be repaired because trust has already been established.

One of the pillars of building community in schools is intentionally centering student voice and leadership. They accomplish this with BOND (Building On a New Direction), a student-led peer mediation program that trains participants in peer mediation, formal circle keeping, and Tier 1 community training. Students meet weekly to plan lessons and facilitate student and teacher wellness-focused circles.



Listen to Brian and Carlos share how educators can overcome common misconceptions about restorative practices and showcase how these practices enhance academic success and equip students with lifelong skills in conflict resolution and emotional intelligence.