



Case Study

American School for the Deaf

📍 West Hartford, CT

In 2020 [the American School for the Deaf \(ASD\) in the PACES Residential Treatment Program in Connecticut](#) began to implement restorative practices alongside their already long-established Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. As a prevention-focused program, PBIS lacked methods for addressing issues and harm as they occurred; restorative practices approaches were introduced to bridge the gap.

Categories of this case study

- K-12 Education
- PBIS & Restorative Practices
- Alternative School
- Residential Placement
- Neurodiverse Populations

“Witnessing our paraprofessionals and teaching assistants seamlessly integrate these practices into daily interactions with students has been truly encouraging. These initiatives not only enhance student engagement but also provide invaluable teaching moments.”

- Cheyenne

“The IIRP has ingrained in me and taught me to understand that people are not going to respond to external stimuli the same way. We have all had different experiences, so our reactions are all going to look different.”

- Cheyenne

ASD leadership has taken steps to comprehensively integrate restorative practices into their academic and residential environments. Staff, students, and paraprofessionals utilize conflict resolution scripts, proactive circle time, and daily check-in prompts to foster a sense of community and accountability across campus. ASD staff have expanded their in-house database by incorporating a comprehensive restorative practices tab, facilitating smoother implementation and tracking of these practices. They use their data to track the impact of their initiatives and identify areas where they need to provide more support.



Listen to Cheyenne Rhodes, the Behavioral Data and PBIS Coordinator at ASD, and hear her share insights on the importance of using data to make informed decisions, the evolution of her approach to intervention, the need for trauma-informed care, positive behavioral support, and restorative practices.