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Project RESTORE

Lancaster County
Human Services



Project RESTORE

Program Overview

Project RESTORE provides an opportunity for pre-referral diversion from court involvement for students ages 11 to 17 who would otherwise be referred to the County Attorney for an assault or disturbing the peace inside any LPS middle or high school, Bryan Community or the Yankee Hill alternative school program. This program will hold youth accountable for their behavior through restorative justice practices and encourages behavior change through interventions and referrals to appropriate programs.

The ultimate goal of Project RESTORE is to avoid youth having unnecessary entry into the justice system.

This program works in collaboration with Lancaster County Attorney, the Lincoln Police Department (LPD), the Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), and the Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services (LLCHS). This is a voluntary and brief 60-day program. Upon successful completion, the arrest will be removed from the youth's record and no further legal action will be taken.

Typical program requirements for youth participating in Project RESTORE may include:

- Completing a Restorative Justice Victim Offender Dialogues conducted by the Mediation Center
- Writing a reflection paper
- Writing apology letters
- Providing restitution
- Community service
- Individual meetings with Project RESTORE diversion officer



Eligibility Requirements

- Between 11 and 17 years of age
- Incident occurred inside a LPS middle or high school, Bryan Community, or the Yankee Hill alternative school program
- Would otherwise be referred for an assault or disturbing the peace excluding any incidents that led to serious bodily injury, was a domestic or sexual assault, or was the result of gang conflict
- Youth cannot currently be in court for a law violation or previously been in court for a law violation
- Youth cannot currently be in or have previously been in diversion for an assault/disturbing the peace violation.

