

Restorative Justice

RATHER THAN ZERO-TOLERANCE



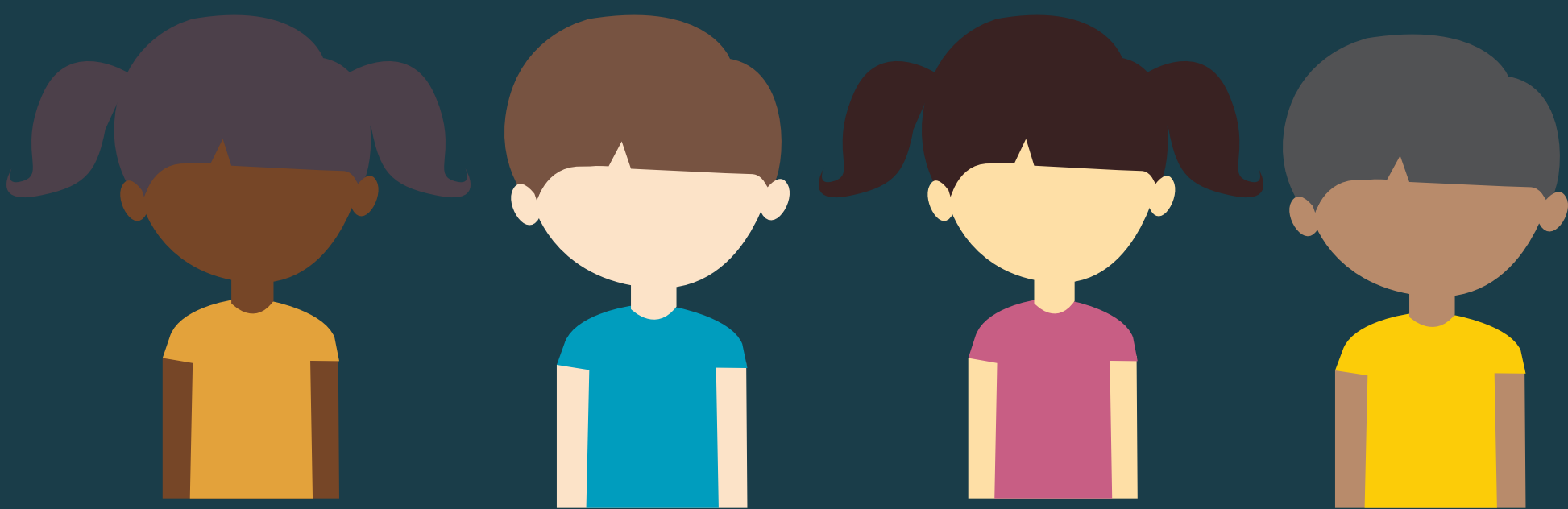
Restorative justice allows kids who inflict harm to explore and address the root causes of their behavior, which is essential to rehabilitation and encourages kids to make real and lasting change.

On the other hand, zero-tolerance policies lead to more students falling behind, and there is a strong correlation between suspensions/expulsions and juvenile justice system involvement.

SUPPORT HB 2991

By Representative James Talarico

Zero-tolerance policies are particularly detrimental for kids who have histories of trauma, because they fail to consider the impact that trauma has on brain development and behavior.



HB 2991 would establish a statewide restorative justice coordinating council to help school districts develop and implement restorative justice programs, which would provide an alternative to zero-tolerance.

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Nearly 1 in 3 referrals to juvenile probation are for behavior that occurs in school.

HB 2991 would help stem the flow of kids into the juvenile justice system, saving significant taxpayer dollars through better long-term outcomes for Texas kids.



Northbrook High School in Houston has developed and implemented a restorative model that doubles as a youth leadership program. As a result, students can graduate with highly developed conflict resolution and leadership skills.

Programs like these should be more common, and HB 2991 would make that a reality.