Whole-School Uses of Circles

1. Tier 1 Circles: Building Relationships & Communities, Everyday Practices
   - Reaffirming relationships in the school
   - Universal: School-wide, 100% of the school community
   - Check-In Circles
   - Talking Circles
   - Community-Building Circles
   - Teaching Circles
   - Writing Circles
   - Celebration Circles
   - Honoring Circles

2. Tier 2 Circles: Problem-Solving and Issue-Focused
   - Repair relationships at the first sign of things going wrong
   - Targeted: As needs, problems, and issues arise
   - Circles of Understanding
   - Support Circles
   - Transition Circles
   - Grief Circles
   - Reintegration Circles
   - Problem Solving Circles
   - Healing Circles
   - Conflict Circles

3. Tier 3 Circles: Deal with Conflicts or Harms
   - Rebuilding relationships in those out of balance
   - Intensive: 1–5% of the school community
   - Long Term Support Circles
   - Repairing Harm Circles
   - Chronic or Complex Conflict Circles
   - Healing Circles

Originating in the mental health field, this three-tiered pyramid concept builds on the work of Brenda Morrison (2007) and Peta Blood (2004), both of whom adapted the pyramid model to show how restorative practices can be most effectively used in schools. Kay Pranis has adapted their pyramid model to show how Circles can be used in schools on all three tiers.

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