

UTILIZING CIRCLES



Communities In Schools is committed to the “Five Basics” developed by our founder, Bill Milliken. The Five Basics are a set of essentials that every child needs and deserves:

- ✓ First Basic: A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult.
- ✓ Second Basic: A safe place to learn and grow.
- ✓ Third Basic: A healthy start and a healthy future.
- ✓ Fourth Basic: A marketable skill to use upon graduation.
- ✓ Fifth Basic: A chance to give back to peers and community.

Circles build community and promote healthy relationships. Their shape embodies connection, inclusion, equity, and community. They support the **Second Basic**: A safe place to learn and grow and the **Fifth Basic**: A chance to give back to peers and community. Circles strengthen social capital and equity. Each participant in a circle is valued and respected equally.

Types of circles:

- 1 Proactive Circles** - Proactive circles are intentional settings that encourage community building and strengthen social capital and equity. They should be utilized 80% of the time.
- 2 Responsive Circles** - Responsive circles are intentional settings that routinely address conflict, grief and loss, and interpersonal issues affecting the community. They also can be used for the recognition of achievement. They should be utilized 20% of the time.
- 3 Sequential Go-Around Circles** - Sequential circles are used to raise a question or discussion point in which each member of the circle responds in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction. Everyone has the opportunity to speak.
- 4 Non-Sequential Circles** - Non-sequential circles are used to raise a question or discussion point in which there is no fixed order for responses. Not everyone is guaranteed a chance to speak.
- 5 Fishbowl Circles** - Fishbowl circles are an effective way to use circles with a large number of participants. The fishbowl allows participants in the inner circle to actively respond to a question or discussion point, while those in the outer circle observe. A common practice of the fishbowl circle is to leave one empty chair in the inner circle to invite students from the outer circle to join the inner circle participants briefly to offer feedback.

*** Consider circles for check-ins, feedback, course content, and getting to know you.**

