



Welcoming Circles Interactive Demonstration

Restorative Practices:
The Art and Science of
Talking Circles





Riding the Waves Together

Welcome! Meet the Team

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- Founder of Restorative Practices at Fusion Charter
- Trained at the Center of Restorative Justice - USD

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- School Counselor – Fusion Charter
- Homeless/Foster Youth Liaison
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Purpose:

To introduce and inform participants of the benefits of utilizing Restorative Talking Circles

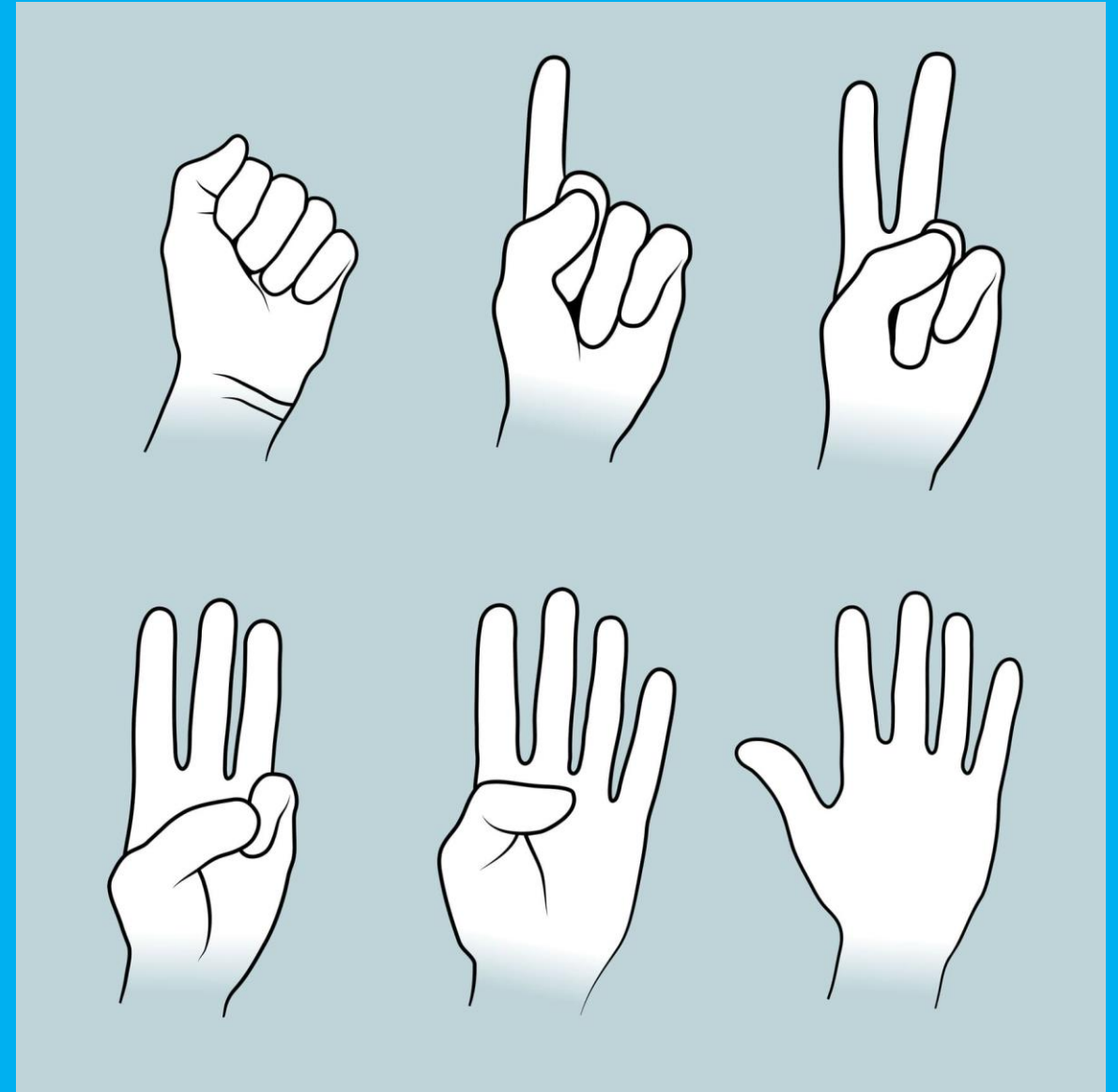
Agenda

- Review and practice the Circle Process
- Discuss what is being practiced in Circle
- How Talking Circles can benefit students exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Analyze the benefits of Talking Circles on school culture



Fist of Five

1. How familiar are you with Talking Circles?
2. How successful are Talking Circles at your school?



Various Ways Fusion Uses Talking Circles

- New Student Orientation
- Classroom
- Staff Trainings
- Staff Meetings
- New Staff Interviews
- Attendance Issues
- Conflict Resolution
- This is the way

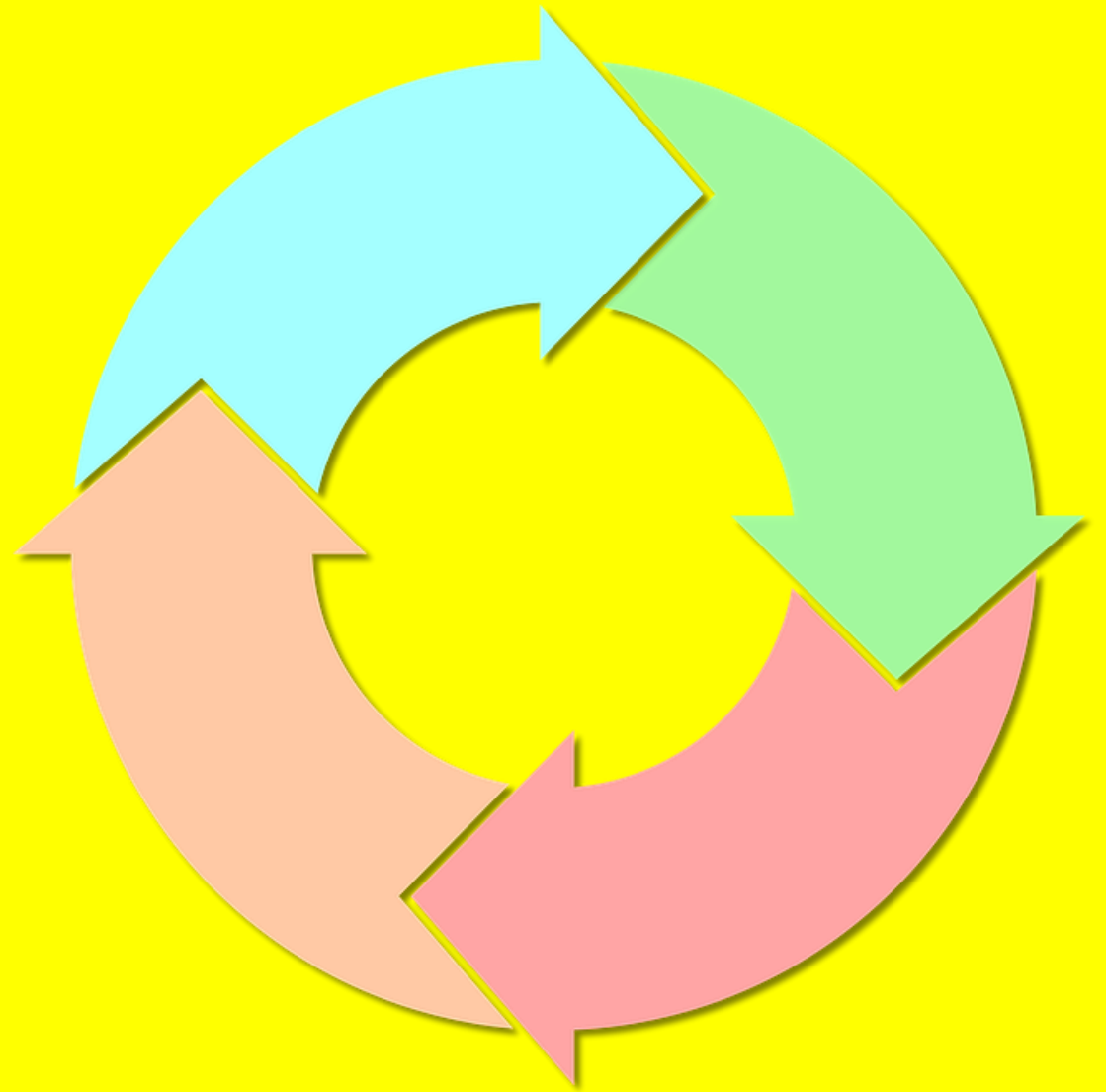


Native American Roots



Circle Process

- Circle Seating
- Mindful Moment
- State the Purpose
- Opening Activity
- Centerpiece and Talking Piece
- Introductions and Check-In
- Identifying Values
- Guidelines
- Trust Building
- Discussion
- Closing Round/Check Out
- Closing Activity



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Circle Seating

- King Arthur and the Knights of the Roundtable
- Face to face accountability
- Equality and connection
- No furniture



Mindful Moment

- Short distinct moment of stillness
- Focus on breathing
- Disconnect from other stimuli
- Cell phones off/mute



State the Purpose

- Directs the Circle
- Sets expectations
- Why are we here?



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Opening Activity

- Begins a sacred space
- Helps participants center themselves
- Relevant to the purpose
- Examples include:



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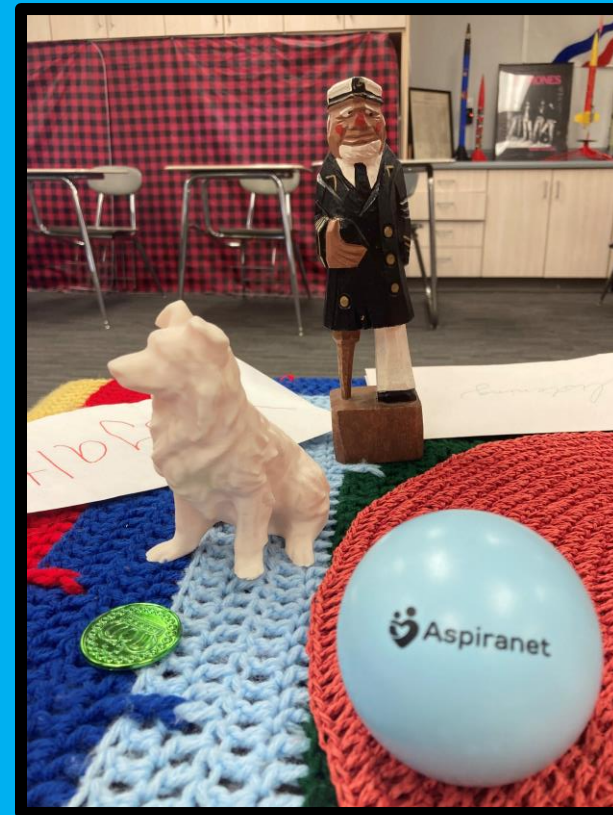
Centerpieces

- A place to focus your eyes



Talking Pieces

- An important element
- Controls the conversation
- Invited to speak
- Passes person to person
- Only the holder may speak



Introductions and Check-in

- What do participants want to be called?
- Share about themselves
- Get to know one another better
- Start making connections



Values

- Important to feel safe
- Honor people's values
- Place values in center



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Guidelines

- **#1** Respect the Talking Piece
- Best when it comes from the participants
- All must agree
- Hold a good space together
- Rules of the room



Talking Circle Activity

4 volunteers

- Circle Seating
- Mindful Moment
- State the Purpose
- Opening Activity - [video](#)
- Centerpiece, Talking Piece
- Introductions & Check-In
- Values
- Guidelines





Talking Circle Activity

4 volunteers

- Circle Seating
- Mindful Moment
- State the Purpose
- Opening Activity - [video](#)
- Centerpiece, Talking Piece
- Introductions & Check-In
- Values
- Guidelines



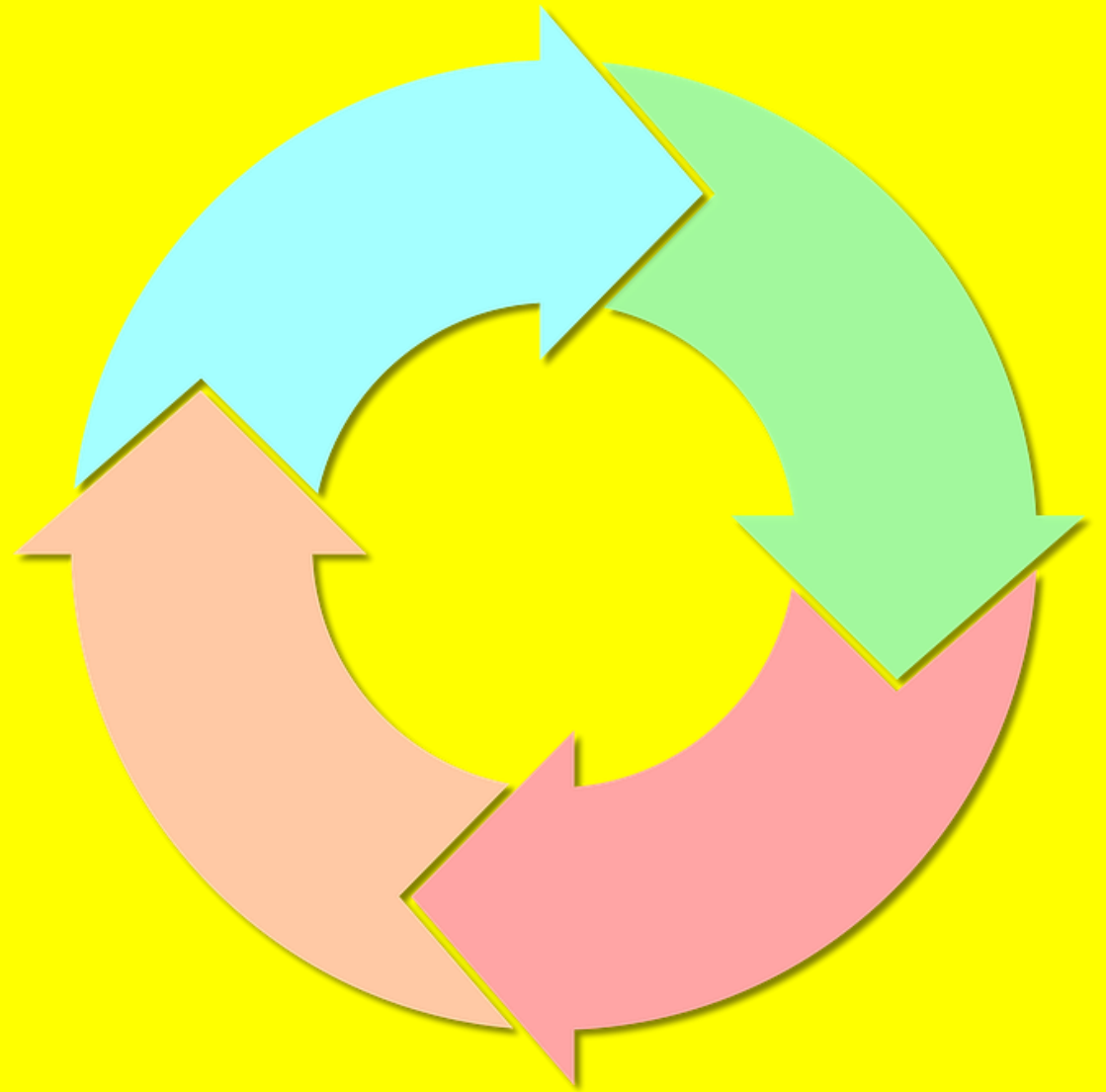
Exactly WHAT is being practiced in Circles?

- Respect
- Equality
- Empathy
- Problem solving
- Responsibility
- Self-regulation
- Shared leadership



Circle Process

- ~~Circle Seating~~
- ~~Mindful Moment~~
- ~~State the Purpose~~
- ~~Opening Activity~~
- ~~Centerpiece and Talking Piece~~
- ~~Introductions and Check-In~~
- ~~Identifying Values~~
- ~~Guidelines~~
- Trust Building
- Discussion
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Trust Building

- Keeper goes first
- Share personal stories
- Increase understanding or connection
- Hear one another more clearly



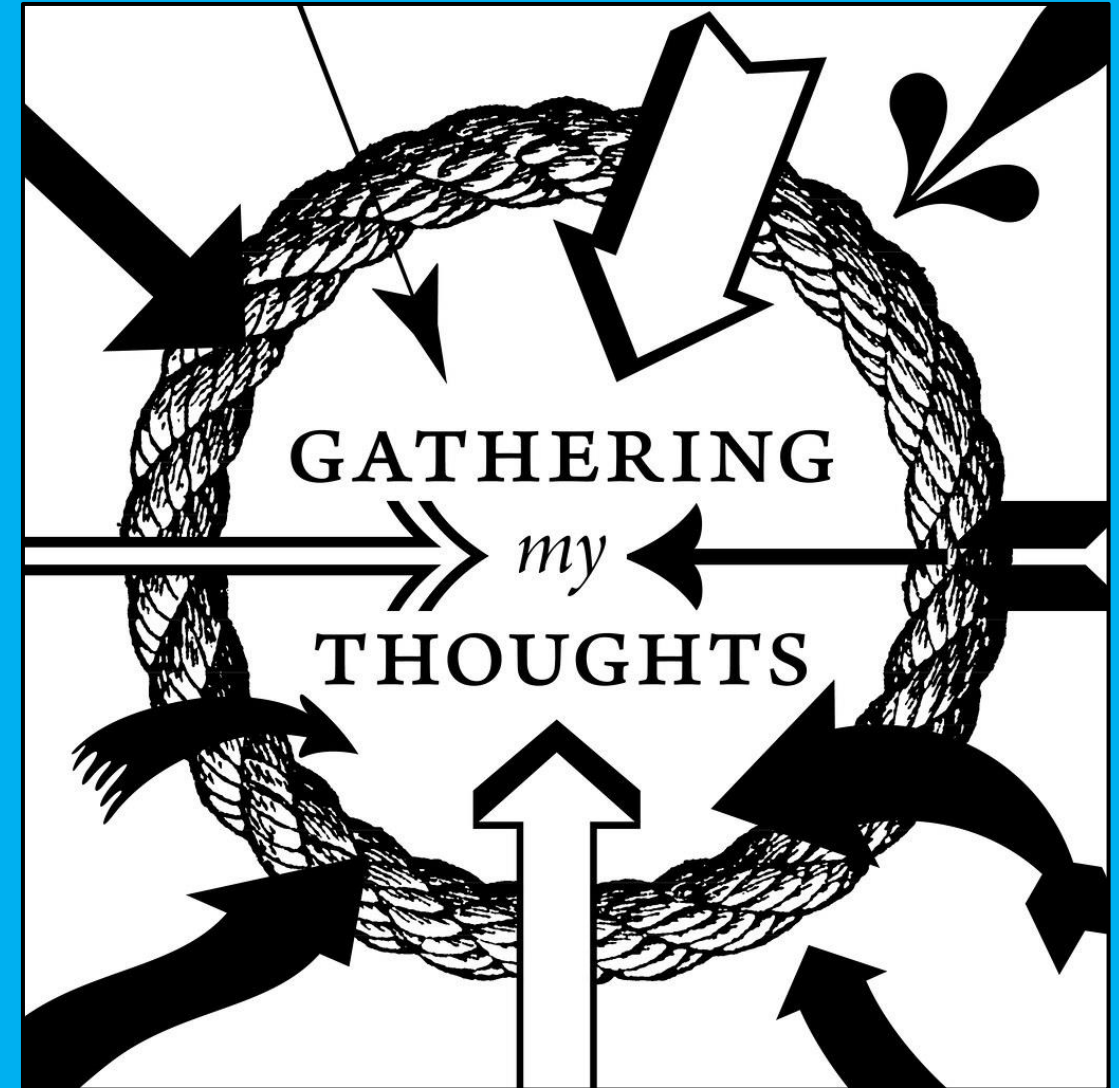
Discussion

- Explore purpose
- Engage in an activity
- Multiple rounds
- Draw out reflections
- Thank participants
- Acknowledge courage
- Keeper goes last



Closing Round/Check Out

- Participants share thoughts about the Circle
- Keeper goes last



Closing Activity

- Closes a sacred space
- Relevant to purpose
- Same type as the Opening Activity
- Examples include:



Talking Circle Activity

4 volunteers for scripted dialogue

- Trust Building
- Discussion
- Closing Round/Check Out
- Closing Activity - [video](#)





Talking circles can be a valuable tool for students who have been exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Potential benefits I have observed:

- Encourages self-expression
- Fosters a sense of community
- Builds resilience
- Provides support
- Promotes healing



Circles can bring numerous benefits to school culture.

Key benefits:

- Encourages communication
- Builds trust and respect
- Fosters empathy and understanding
- Provides a platform for conflict resolution
- Supports mental health and well-being





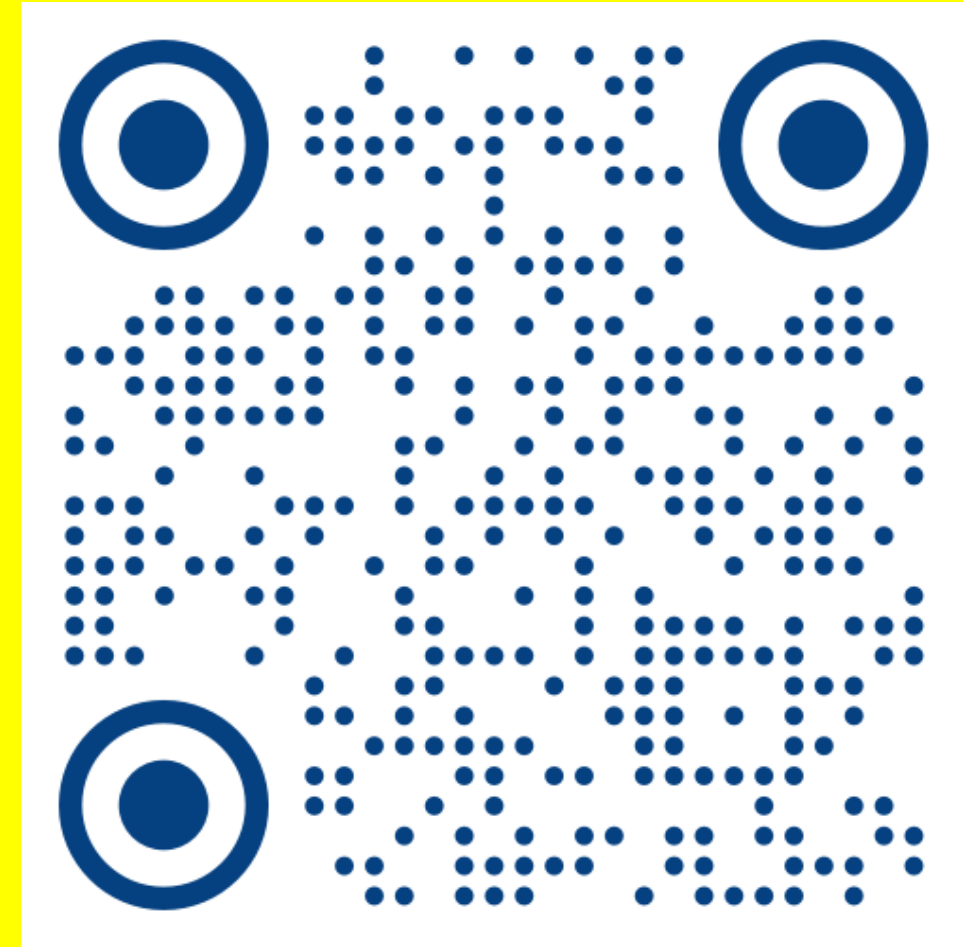
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Feedback QR



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**Fusion Charter
1 of 20 schools to
be funded by the
2022-24 Homeless
Innovative
Program (HIP)
Grant**



**SchoolHouse
Connection**

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