

PSESD Attendance & Reengagement

Cooperative Pilot Circle Keeper Process



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As part of our ongoing efforts to support student attendance and engagement regionally, the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD) Attendance & Reengagement Cooperative Pilot has been offering Circle Keeper Process Training with the National Compadres Network to our partners over the last year. This relational approach is rooted in trust, growth, dignity and healing, centering on authentic restorative practices that make our students feel seen, heard, valued and engaged.

The Circle Keeper Process, which is part of the La Cultura Cura philosophy, provides a powerful framework for fostering meaningful connections between students, educators, and families that is grounded in Indigenous ways of being. The Circle Keeper Process is not a “train the trainer” model, but rather gives practitioners training, guidance and direction in holding *Círculos* (circles) within their own schools.

In our most recent session, participants experienced:

- Facilitation of *Círculos* as spaces for relationship-building and accountability
- Ways to center and honor student voices, prioritizing their growth and healing
- Appreciation of the lived realities of participants in the circle, in a space free from judgment
- Grounding in practices encouraging humility, gratitude, and cultural relevance in fostering community well-being

This training has primarily been an opportunity for our PSESD Attendance & Reengagement Cooperative Pilot partners: Federal Way Public Schools, Franklin Pierce School District, and Tacoma Public Schools. We are excited to continue to offer this training opportunity regionally, as we believe that the *Circle Keeper Process* will help us create a school culture where students feel a true sense of belonging—one that honors their stories and strengths. PALABRA.



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