

Responsible Thinking Process® Fact Sheet

A Report to the Williamston Community Schools Board of Education

September 2012

In the fall of 2004 Explorer Elementary School implemented The Responsible Thinking Process® as a school wide intervention aimed at those children who sometimes struggle in the classroom, on the playground, or in other settings at school because of social, emotional, or behavioral issues.

As always, our goal is to assure a safe and orderly environment for *all* children. Students who disrupt the learning environment are given the choice of remaining where they are and following the rules or going to the Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) where they work with the Responsible Thinking Teacher to develop a plan for their return to the classroom. On the rare occasion that a student chooses to disrupt in the Responsible Thinking Classroom, he/she will be sent home from school.

It is very important to remember that the Responsible Thinking Classroom is NOT a punishment. It is designed to help students solve their problems and be successful at school while respecting the rights of others. There are no rewards, no punishments, and no warnings.

WE BELIEVE....

- Students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach in safety.
- No one has the right to disrupt, to prevent other students from learning or to violate the rights of others.

What Are Students Learning?

- To be independent
- To be self-disciplined
- To set goals and develop plans to achieve those goals
- To take responsibility for their behavior
- To use reason and cooperation to solve their problems
- To resolve conflicts and solve problems on their own

The Responsible Thinking Process® was developed by author, educator, and psychologist Ed Ford and is based upon studies of perceptual control theory. It has been implemented in hundreds of schools in the United States, with the result being an increased sense of self-discipline and in many cases, student achievement. In schools where the RTP has been implemented, most students never visit the Responsible Thinking Classroom. Approximately 25% choose to disrupt only once, and after making a successful plan to help them follow school rules, never visit again. With the very few students who continue to have difficulty following school rules, parents are asked to join us here at school in developing a plan to help their children be successful.

Our continued implementation of the Responsible Thinking Process® has been successful. Teachers have reported fewer disruptions in the classrooms and we have significantly reduced behavioral incidents on the playground.