

Character Education Works!

“Emphasizing respect, responsibility, integrity and good citizenship will make our schools safer and more productive while preparing our students to become good citizens. The very founding of our country was grounded in moral principals and values. Concepts like honesty, justice, integrity, self discipline, responsibility, and patriotism *will* make a difference in our schools.”

-Bob Etheridge
US Representative (D)
North Carolina

Top 11 Character Education Principals:

1. **Character education promotes core ethical values as the basis of good character.**
2. **“Character” must be comprehensively defined to include thinking, feeling and behavior.**
3. **Effective character education requires an intentional, proactive and comprehensive approach that promotes the core values in all phases of school life.**
4. **The school must be a caring community.**
5. **To develop character, students need opportunities for moral action.**
6. **Effective character education includes a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners and helps them succeed.**
7. **Character education should strive to develop students’ intrinsic motivation.**
8. **The school staff must become a learning and moral community in which all share responsibility for character education and attempt to adhere to the same core values that guide the education of students.**
9. **Character education requires moral leadership from both staff and students.**
10. **The school must recruit parents and community members as full partners in the character-building effort.**
11. **Evaluation of character education should asses the character of the school, the school staff’s functioning as character educators and the extent to which students manifest good character.**

-Curriculum Review

Benefits of Teaching Character Education:

- **Creates a safe, warm, friendly and comfortable environment**
- **Changes attitudes and behaviors**
- **Teaches social and emotional skills**
- **Builds mutual respect between teachers and students**
- **Builds protective factors to offset the impact of stressful life events**
- **Creates a cooperative environment rather than competitive**
- **Increases positive self-concepts**