

Guidelines for School Districts in Fostering Character Education



School districts committed to developing good character in students and staff meet the following guidelines:

- ◆ Establish character education as part of the district's vision, mission, goals, and objectives.
- ◆ Define character education clearly and comprehensively. Reinforce that it is a process, not a program, one that demands integration into all aspects of the curriculum, culture, and climate.
- ◆ Provide staff development in character education: training teachers, principals, and other school personnel on a recurring basis; training new teachers; providing funding for substitute teachers so that staff have planning and training time; and sponsoring annual/biannual conferences on character education.
- ◆ Build implementation of character education into the assessment of school principals, and, in turn, encourage/require principals to evaluate integration of character education into their observations and assessments of teachers, counselors, and administrators.
- ◆ Stimulate information sharing by providing venues for collaboration among schools and establishing a centralized source of materials, curricula, and other tools.
- ◆ Encourage central office personnel (e.g., superintendent; directors of sports and physical education, counseling, media services, school-to-careers, service learning, student services, and administrative services) to incorporate character education in their work.
- ◆ Ensure that character education is included in academic curriculum frameworks.
- ◆ Make explicit that service learning includes a reflective, character-building component.
- ◆ Arrange for and finance assessment of the district's character education initiative.
- ◆ Establish an ongoing district-community character education committee that involves business leaders, local governmental agencies (e.g., parks and recreation, health and human services), faith communities, youth-serving organizations, parents, and students (if appropriate).
- ◆ Incorporate character education in the district's community and public relations efforts.
- ◆ Demonstrate application of effective character education practices in at least 65-75% of the schools in the district.

Call (1-800) 988-8081 or (202) 296-7743
for further information.



Character Education Partnership
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1011, Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 800-988-8081 or 202-296-7743 Fax: 202-296-7779
www.character.org/nsoc Email: nsoc@character.org