

Character Education Resource Center News You Can Use

August 2017

"The word CHARACTER has two Cs in it! One stands for CHOICE and the other for CONSEQUENCES. Living a life of good character doesn't happen by CHANCE, nor does it happen by CIRCUMSTANCES. It happens by CHOICES."

-Ed DeRoche

NO "BULL" ABOUT BULLYING BULLYING RESOURCES THAT INFORM BOARD & SCHOOL POLICIES

The California State Department of Education is a good place to start looking for guidance and recommendation for creating policies and implementing practices. "Bullying At School" is a 52-page guide that includes chapters on the legal authority for addressing bullying and hateful behavior at school, understanding what school bullying and hate-motivated behavior is about, how to work with the media, and much more.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss/se/documents/bullyingatschool.pdf>

Why re-invent the wheel when the CSDOE offers a "Sample Policy for Bullying Prevention."

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss/se/samplepolicy.asp#content>

You may want to know what the key components in state anti-bully laws are. If you do check out:

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/laws/key-components/index.html> - skip

How, you may ask, can parents, educators, students, and communities work together to address the causes and effects of bullying and cyberbullying?

There are many ways. Here is one.

<https://www.edutopia.org/blogs/tag/bullying-prevention>

Last recommendation: Investigate programs like "The Inside-Out Approach."

"Bullying interventions need to change the conditions in the social environment that permit bullying to occur." Dorothy L. Espelage, bullying researcher

<http://community-matters.org/our-approach/a-solution-the-inside-out-approach>

You can easily judge the character of a person by how he/she treats those who can do nothing for him/her.

- James Miles



Two More Cs: Character & Civics Education

Civics education is the study and application of the rights and duties of citizenship in a participatory democracy and includes the understanding of the structure of our state and federal governments including selected civic-citizenship issues. *Character education* encompasses methods for teaching children and adolescent such values/virtues including honesty, stewardship, kindness, generosity, courage, freedom, justice, equality, respect, and responsibility. The *relationship* between character and civic education helps develop adult and student sense of civic-citizenship skills and responsibilities.

The Character Traits Calendar

One of my favorite resources is the Cobb County School District's "Character Traits Calendar" that focuses on a character trait each month. For example:

RESPECT: Showing regard for the worth of someone or something		
Week 1	Self-respect*	Pride and belief in one's self and in achievement of one's potential.
Week 2	Respect for Others*	Concern for and motivation to act for the welfare of others.
Week 3	Respect for Authority	Respect for those individuals who are in positions of responsibility.
Week 4	Respect for Learning and Punctuality*	Appreciation for the importance of and effort involved in acquiring knowledge. Showing high regard for the worth of promptness.

Download the "Character Traits Calendar" at

<http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/communications/charactereducation/>

3 Questions About Social-Emotional Learning

Here are three questions we are usually asked about SEL:

- 1) What does SEL look like in a school or school district?
- 2) Does SEL pay-off?
- 3) Do you have SEL resources that will help us in our school and classrooms?

Answer to #1: Click on the link for a comprehensive district framework that describes 10 essential areas to focus on. www.casel.org/in-the-district

Answer to #2: It does! It impacts academics outcomes, it is cost effective, and teachers value it. One of the latest "impact reports" reviews 213 studies of school-based SEL interventions and is worth reading.

<http://www.casel.org/the-impact-of-enhancing-students-social-and-emotional-learning-a-meta-analysis-of-school-based-universal-interventions/>

Answer to #3: We sure do! Tell us what information you need/are interested in and we will get it for you. CERC offers an SEL course for undergraduate and graduate students. The Division of Professional & Continuing Education offers a professional development SEL course for educators, which is one of four courses leading to a Character Education Development Certificate.

21st Annual Character Education Conference

The Essence of Character



21ST ANNUAL CHARACTER MATTERS CONFERENCE

Speaker Videos

Over ninety teachers, school administrators, university instructors, staff, and students attended the University of San Diego's Character Education Resource Center's two day conference about character, emotional intelligence, social skills and relationships, and civic and digital citizenship. Here are the links for each of the six major conference speakers.

Michelle M. Herczog: *Civic Learning in California: Preparing All Students for Civic Life in the 21st Century*

<https://video.sandiego.edu/Watch/j8ETp7m2>

Matthew Hayes: *Using Historical Inquiry to Enhance Empathy and Civil Discourse*

<https://video.sandiego.edu/Watch/Jd6p2X4Y>

Jason Ohler: *Digital Citizenship and Character Education: Navigating Ethics During Times of Extreme Change; Fearlessly and Hopefully*

<https://video.sandiego.edu/Watch/x9TPw84L>

Maurice J. Elias: *Inspiring Students' Character and Competence Through Positive Purpose*

<https://video.sandiego.edu/Watch/j2LNx8t3>

Mary Hurley: *Creating the Conditions for Learning Through Adult SEL*

<https://video.sandiego.edu/Watch/Rk46Kms8>

Thomas Lickona: *Moral Character, Performance Character, and Social-Emotional Skills*

<https://video.sandiego.edu/Watch/o8K5Qpy7>



Comment/Critique/Unsubscribe

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