

Character Education Programs

The California Department of Education (CDE) advocates incorporating character education into a standards-based educational system in a variety of ways.

Character education builds and develops character in youth; supports the core values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Refer to the CDE website for more details <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ys/ce/index.asp>

California Education Code Section 233.5 - Charges teachers with the task of moral instruction.

Each teacher shall endeavor to impress upon the minds of the pupils the principles of morality, truth, justice, patriotism, and a true comprehension of the rights, duties, and dignity of American citizenship, and the meaning of equality and human dignity, including the promotion of harmonious relations, kindness toward domestic pets and the humane treatment of living creatures, to teach them to avoid idleness, profanity, and falsehood, and to instruct them in manners and morals and the principles of a free government. (b) Each teacher is also encouraged to create and foster an environment that encourages pupils to realize their full potential and that is free from discriminatory attitudes, practices, events, or activities, in order to prevent acts of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233.

"Effective schools seek to develop and reinforce character traits, such as caring, citizenship, fairness, respect, responsibility, and trustworthiness, through a systematic approach that includes adult modeling, curriculum integration, a positive school climate, and access to comprehensive guidance and counseling services." *Elementary Makes the Grade!* (CDE, 1999)

The resources and classroom materials listed below are considered an "outside source" by the California Department of Education for character education classroom materials. CTRL + click to access link below

Resources (Supplementary)

[California Partnership for Character Education](#)
[Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character](#)
[Character Counts](#)
[Character Education Partnership](#)
[CharacterPlus](#)
[Good Character](#)
[Judicious Discipline](#)
[LESSON ONE](#)
[School for Ethical Education](#)
[University of San Diego Character Development Center](#)
[What Works Clearinghouse](#)
[WiseSkills Community Connections Kit](#)

Classroom Materials

[Character-Based Literacy Program](#)
[Character Counts](#)
[Film Clips for Character Education](#)
[Giraffe Heroes Project](#)
[Good Character](#)
[Head, Heart and Hands \(3H's\)](#)
[Judicious Discipline](#)
[Lessons in Character](#)
[LESSON ONE](#)
[PeaceBuilders](#)

[Character Education Partnership \(CEP\)](#) – National Awards Program: Every year, CEP names 10 public and private schools and districts (K-12) as National Schools of Character for their outstanding work in improving the behavior and learning of their students through character education. Learn more about this prestigious [national awards program](#) and the districts that serve as models for other educators.

For possible funding sources refer to: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ys/ce/index.asp>

Student Assistance Programs (Researched-Based Activity)

The California Department of Education (CDE) articulates that the goals of Student Assistance Programs are to reduce students' behavioral, disciplinary violations, and substance use, and address a wide range of issues that impeded adolescent academic achievement while improving school attendance and academic performance.

Refer to CDE for more details <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/at/sap.asp>

"Any student assistance program effort demonstrates that a school system recognizes, first, that such problems do plague students and, second, that a responsible system of adults must respond and help." (Hipsley, 2001).

Characterized by a team approach, this professional, systematic process is designed to provide education, prevention, early identification, intervention, referral and support services for students exhibiting risk behaviors which are interfering with their education. (National Student Assistance Association).

Student Assistance Programs are one of fourteen research-based activities that have been shown to be an essential component of comprehensive efforts to prevent youth drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior. Research-based prevention activities are those activities that research suggests should be used to supplement science-based programs as part of a comprehensive effort to prevent alcohol, tobacco, other drug use (ATOD) and violence. For more information refer to CDE's [Getting Results](#) publications, Part I, page 72 and Part 1, pages 110-111 and visit the CDE website <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/at/rbactivitieslist.asp> for the complete list of research-based activities.

Student assistance programs are a comprehensive approach to improving the health and academic success of students. Students identified as exhibiting one or more health risk behaviors or school performance problem are referred to a multidisciplinary team that gathers additional data; assess student needs; and recommends related intervention or services. As a school-based approach such programs focus services to students needing interventions for academics, behavior, and attendance often due to deeper concerns relating to substance abuse, mental health, or emotional or social issues for children and youth at all grade levels. Student Assistance Programs are a process that connects education, programs, and services within and across school and community systems to create a network of supports to help students. Refer to the CDE website for links to state and local resources and to learn more about the three models of Student Assistance Program: Counselor, Community Agency and Core Team.

The following resources and classroom materials are considered an "outside source" by the California Department of Education. CTRL + click to access link below

Classroom Materials

- [Positive Action](#) – A nationally recognized, evidence-based program that improves academic success, behavior, and character development
- [Project SUCCESS](#) - (Schools Using Coordinated Efforts to Strengthen Students) - A school-based program that prevents and reduces substance use among high-risk multi-problem adolescents

Resources (Supplementary)

- [Join Together](#) - Information for prevention and community action - substance abuse and gun violence
- [Search Institute](#) - Nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. [40 Developmental Assets](#)
- National Student Assistance Association - <http://www.nasap.org/sapcomponents/html>
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) - School, family and community resource kits for prevention
- [California SAP Resource Center](#) - Resources for supporting student achievement
- [Connecticut Governor's Prevention Partnership](#) - The Student Assistance Program is a school-based prevention and early intervention program for students in kindergarten – 12th grade
- [Introduction to Student Assistance Programs: Supporting Student Achievement Toolkit](#)
- [Masonic Model Foundation for Children](#)

Example Program: Tier 3 – Intensive / Indicated

Mentoring (Researched-Based Activity)

The California Department of Education (CDE) articulates that mentoring of young people by adults has been shown to be effective in reducing violence and the use of drugs if the mentoring relationship is sustained and non-prescriptive and if the mentors and youths are carefully matched. .

Refer to CDE for more details <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/yd/mr/>

Mentoring is one of fourteen research-based activities that have been shown to be an essential component of comprehensive efforts to prevent youth drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior. Research-based prevention activities are those activities that research suggests should be used to supplement science-based programs as part of a comprehensive effort to prevent alcohol, tobacco, other drug use (ATOD) and violence. For more information refer to CDE's [Getting Results](#) publications, Part I, page 40, Update 1, page 58 and Update 5, Page 50 and the CDE website <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/at/rbactivitieslist.asp> for the complete list of research-based activities.

Mentoring relationships offer opportunity for reciprocal growth and learning. Thoughtful conversations about educational practice establish forums for learning. Mentoring relationships provide opportunities for thinking out loud, sharing information, solving problems and creating novel approaches to working with students. The learning is reciprocal. (Mentoring Matters, Lipton)

Mentoring is an increasingly popular way of providing guidance and support to young people in need. In recent years youth mentoring has expanded and is being implemented in schools, community centers, faith institutions, school-to-work programs, and in a wide variety of other youth-serving institutions. Mentors provide their expertise to less experienced individuals in order to help them advance their careers, enhance their education, and build their networks.

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Resources (Supplementary)

- Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence, The George Washington University <http://www.hamfish.org>
- National Mentoring Center, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory <http://www.nwrel.org/mentoring>
- Mentoring Matters: A Practical Guide to Learning-Focused Relationships, Laura Lipton, Ed.D and Bruce Wellman, M.Ed, 2nd Edition, February 2003, Miravia – The Road to Learning <http://www.miravia.com>
- [California Governor's Mentoring Partnership](#) - The Governor's Mentoring Partnership provides continuing support for California's youth through mentoring
- [Guide to Effective Programs for Children and Youth](#) - The guide provides users with an easy reference for programs that work, influencing a variety of outcomes over a child's life
- [Mentoring Program Directory](#) - The California Mentoring Program directory is a current list of mentoring, tutoring, and academic programs for children
- [National Mentoring Partnership](#) - The National Mentoring Partnership is an advocate for the expansion of mentoring and a resource for mentors and mentoring initiatives nationwide
- [Safe and Healthy Kids Annual Program Reports](#)