

INSTRUCTION

File: IGAI

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Charlottesville City Schools provides, within its existing programs or as a separate program, a character education program in its schools. The character education program may occur during the regular school year, during the summer in a youth development academy offered by the school division, or both. The purpose of the program is to foster civic virtues and personal character traits so as to improve the learning environment, promote student achievement, reduce disciplinary problems, and develop civic-minded students of high character. The program shall be periodically reviewed and updated by a committee including students, parents, and the community. Specific character traits emphasized may include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Character education shall be interwoven into the school procedures and environment so as to instruct primarily by example, illustration, and participation, in such a way as to complement the Standards of Learning. Classroom instruction may also be used to supplement the program. The program shall also address the inappropriateness of bullying, as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01.

The character education program:

- specifies those character traits to be taught, selecting from those which are common to diverse social, cultural, and religious groups.
- is implemented at the elementary and secondary levels.
- provides for relevant professional development and adequate resources; and
- includes a method for program evaluation.

Character education is intended to educate students regarding those core civic values and virtues which are basic to civilized society and are common to the diverse social, cultural, and religious groups of the Commonwealth. It shall not include indoctrination in any particular religious or political belief. Consistent with this purpose, Virginia's civic values, which are the principles articulated in the Bill of Rights (Article I) of the Constitution of Virginia and the ideals reflected in the seal of the Commonwealth, as described in Va. Code § 1-500, may be taught as representative of such civic values.

Adopted: October 21, 1999

Revised: April 17, 2008

Revised: July 5, 2012

Revised: June 27, 2016

Legal References: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, section 22.1-208.01
United State Constitution, First Amendment

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Cross References: IKF Standards of Learning and Graduation Requirements
INB Teaching About Controversial Issues
INDC Religion in Schools