



## “Connect with Character” Power Tools

Classroom Resources, Professional Development, and Coaching

Character Education helps students reach their full capacity and provides them with a foundation for success. Through an emphasis on character, students grow in qualities such as respect, attentiveness, responsibility, self-control, truthfulness, and compassion. In turn, they gain self-confidence, improve their relationships, work harder, and make better choices.

### Why Connect with Character?

- Enhances school culture
- Builds on your school’s strengths to create an organic vs. a canned program
- Utilizes your core values
- Assists administrators in establishing high standards
- Energizes teachers and provide them with tools for building character
- Brings out the best in students by building on their strengths

### What We Believe

Increasing technology and social media usage can leave children feeling disconnected, even isolated. Effective character education helps students connect to their classmates, teachers, and school, creating a sense of belonging and supporting mental health.

We believe that character is the foundation of a thriving school culture and that Character Education is the plate upon which all other programs, policies, curriculums, relationships, and behavior expectations are based. We wholeheartedly believe that **Character Education is not one more thing on your plate; it is the plate!**

### Core Values

Defining your school’s core values is a powerful path to creating an effective culture. The Character Council features 36 positive character qualities that will cover most, if not all, of your core values. We promote one quality each month and provide FREE resources on our website to support all 36. Each month, the web-based resources include:

Games and Activities	Curriculum Content	Book Reading Lists
Word Origins and Idioms	Team Building Activities	Reflections from a Counselor

### Best Practices in Character Education

The Character Council partners with Character.Org, a national leader in character education based in Washington, DC. We sponsor the State School of Character in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The SSOC program outlines 11 principles for using your Core Values to positively impact a school’s culture and achievements.

## **Implementation**

Character.org recommends a three-year implementation process for culture enrichment and to prepare to apply for State School of Character recognition:

### **Year 1**

- Evaluate where you are, where you want to be, and create an evaluation plan to get there
- Provide staff training/coaching on the basics of core values, and to engage all stakeholders

### **Year 2**

- Focus on enriching and improving relationships between students, teachers, administrators, staff and parents
- Expand opportunities for students to be involved in Service Learning

### **Year 3**

- Implement best practices for intrinsic motivation, student leadership and expanding students' voice and choice.

## **How We can Help**

**Year 1:** The Character Council offers individualized coaching to assist school leaders in creating a plan that is organic to your organization and builds upon what you are already doing. Our “Success through Integrity” and “Building a Culture of Character in the Classroom” professional development seminars help your teachers model character for their students and bring best practices into the classroom.

**Year 2:** The Council offers professional development seminars that build stronger and healthier relationships building-wide: “Becoming a Leader of Character,” “Building Strong Teams,” “Embracing Change,” and “Handling Difficult Conversations.”

**Year 3:** If you choose to apply for Character.org’s State School of Character designation, we can coach you through the application process.

Our “Connect with Character” Power Tools of free resources on the website, professional development training, and individualized coaching will help make character the plate of your culture and unite the entire building around your core values.