

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Albemarle County School Division shall establish, 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 cooperatively developed with students, parents, and the community, and shall comply with criteria established by the Board of Education. ~~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.~~

Each local character education program shall conform to the following criteria ~~established by the Board of Education~~. Each program must:

- ~~• Be developed in cooperation with the students, parents, and the community at large.~~
- Specify those character traits to be taught, selecting from those which are common to diverse social, cultural, and religious groups.
- Be implemented at the elementary and secondary levels.
- ~~• Complement the state Standards of Learning, be interwoven into existing curricula and taught primarily by example, illustration, and participation.~~
- Provide for relevant professional development and adequate resources~~;~~ and
- Include a method for program evaluation.

Character education is intended to educate students regarding those core civic values and virtues which are efficacious 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.

Adopted: October 11, 1999; November 30, 2000
Reviewed: September 9, 2004

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, section 22.1-208.01
United States Constitution, First Amendment
Board of Education Criteria for Character Education (2/24/00)
Superintendent's Memorandum No. 45 (March 10, 2000)

Cross Refs.: INB, *Teaching About Controversial Issues*
INDC, *Religion in the Schools*