

2130P: Character Development

Moral and/or character development occurs both affectively and cognitively. For purposes of providing a focus for a school that strives to enhance character development, the following attributes of a morally mature person as defined by the ASCD Panel on Moral Education are offered as targets for a school that wishes to facilitate a program of character development:

The morally mature person habitually:

- A. Respects human dignity, which includes
 - a. Showing regard for the worth and rights of all persons,
 - b. Avoiding deception and dishonesty,
 - c. Promoting human equality,
 - d. Respecting freedom of conscience,
 - e. Working with people of different views, and
 - f. Refraining from prejudiced actions.
 - B. Cares **about the welfare of others**, which includes
 - a. Recognizing interdependence among people,
 - b. Caring for one's country,
 - c. Seeking social justice,
 - d. Taking pleasure in helping others, and
 - e. Working to help others reach moral maturity.
 - C. Integrates individual interests and social responsibilities, which includes
 - a. Becoming involved in community life,
 - b. Doing a fair share of community work,
 - c. Displaying self-regarding and other-regarding moral virtues — self- control, diligence, fairness, kindness, honesty, civility — in every day life,
 - d. Fulfilling commitments, and
 - e. Developing self-esteem through relationships with others.
 - D. Demonstrates integrity, which includes
 - a. Practicing diligence,
 - b. Taking stands for moral principles,
 - c. Displaying moral courage,
 - d. Knowing when to compromise and when to confront, and
 - e. Accepting responsibility for one's choices.
 - E. Reflects on moral choices, which includes
 - a. Recognizing the moral issues involved in a situation,
 - b. Applying moral principles when making moral judgments,
 - c. Thinking about the consequences of decisions, and
 - d. Seeking to be informed about important moral issues in society and the world.
 - F. Seeks peaceful resolution of conflict, which includes
 - a. Striving for the fair resolution of personal and social conflicts,
 - b. Avoiding physical and verbal aggression,
 - c. Listening carefully to others, and
 - d. Encouraging others to communicate.
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