

## CHARACTER EDUCATION

ACPS ~~shall establish~~ provides, within its existing programs, a character education program in its schools. The purpose of this 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 may be developed in cooperation with students, parents, and the community at large. ~~The character education program and~~ shall conform to the following criteria established by the Board of Education. ~~Each~~ The 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. Specific character traits emphasized may include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.
- Address the inappropriateness of bullying as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01. ~~the Student Conduct Policy Guidelines adopted by the Board of Education pursuant to Code of Virginia § 22.1-279.6.~~
- 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. Classroom instruction may also be used to supplement the program.
- Provide for relevant professional development and adequate resources.
- Include a method for program evaluation.

Character education shall 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. Consistent with this purpose, ACPS may teach 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, as representative of such civic values.

Adopted: July 1, 2005  
 Amended: June 1, 2006  
 Amended: January 22, 2015  
Amended:

Legal Refs.: ~~U.S. Const. amend I~~  
 Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, section 22.1-208.01  
~~Superintendent's Memorandum No. 45 (March 10, 2000)~~

Cross Refs.: IKF Standards of Learning and Graduation Requirements Standards of Learning Assessments, Verified Units of Credit, and Diploma Classifications  
IKF-R Standards of Learning Assessments, Verified Units of Credit, and Diploma Classification Regulations

INB Teaching About Controversial Issues  
INDC Religion in the Schools

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