POLICY BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: ABC, ABC-RA, ACB, JFA-RA
Responsible Office: Pupil and Community Services

Character Education

The Board of Education believes that every child's character is molded by influences starting with the child's family, and including all the other institutions that affect the child's life. It is a major purpose of public education to teach, model, and encourage in every possible way the development of good character in every child.

A. PURPOSE

1. To reaffirm the Board of Education's commitment to the ideals of good character and citizenship through character education, which shall include, but not be limited to the following: caring and consideration for others, citizenship, fairness, hard work, honesty, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, and integrity.

2. To ensure that character education programs address the unique needs of the individual school communities through the collaboration of staff, students, parents, and the greater school community

3. To continue to foster a safe, supportive, and academically challenging environment for all students by providing skills for personal interaction based on living in and contributing to a democratic society

B. ISSUE

The Montgomery County Public Schools values the right of every child to a quality education. The Board of Education recognizes that a quality education includes a fundamental expectation that schools provide an environment that encourages the development of a strong moral anchor in truth, responsibility, and justice. American public education has historically viewed character development as a foundation of the major mission of successful teaching and learning. Values and character are formed by the social environments of homes, schools, and communities. Clear expectations,

personal management of behavior and responsibility, a supportive environment, and pride in complying with the norms of the community help shape behavior.

Families, schools, and communities have a profound influence on character, ethics, and values in both direct and indirect ways, and school communities have a responsibility to teach, demonstrate, and promote ethical behavior. All stakeholders in the educational process must work in partnership to ensure the successful development of the citizens of future generations.

C. POSITION

1. Character education shall include but not be limited to the following: caring and consideration for others, citizenship, fairness, hard work, honesty, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, and integrity.

2. The Board of Education expects staff, students, families, and the greater community to engage in a deliberative process to determine the additional specific character education components that reflect their unique school/cluster community.

3. School communities shall be maintained in which positive behavior is practiced, demonstrated, modeled, and reinforced within an environment of mutual respect and dignity.

4. The Montgomery County Public Schools *Program of Studies* shall provide opportunities for the integration of character education throughout the curricula.

D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Character education is a foundation of the schools' major mission of successful teaching and learning.

2. Students are prepared to live and contribute as citizens in a democratic society.

3. Families, schools, and communities work in partnership to model and develop qualities of good character and ethical decision-making abilities.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. Schools will continue to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate and practice good character.

2. Every school shall have a program to support efforts to build good character.

3. The process of integrating character education in school-wide programs will include the involvement of students, staff, families, and the greater school community.

4. Student expectations are articulated in Policy JFA: *Student Rights and Responsibilities*.

5. Staff members are expected to model good character and citizenship and ethical decision making.

6. The superintendent shall recommend any changes to the *Program of Studies* that may be necessary to include character education objectives in the instructional program.

7. Regulations to implement this policy will be developed, as necessary.

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education's policy review process.

Policy History: Resolution Nos. 48-82, 49-82, 50-82, and 52-82, January 12, 1982, reformatted in accordance with Resolution No. 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution No. 458-86, August 12, 1986, accepted by Resolution No. 517-86, September 22, 1986, amended by Resolution No. 65-98, February 10, 1998.