

Character Education Clearinghouse

Character Education Clearinghouse Disclaimer:

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Louisiana Department of Education have established this Character Education Clearinghouse in response to R.S. 17:282.2. BESE and the Louisiana Department of Education do not endorse particular programs or resources contained within this site.

LA State Legislation: [R.S. 17:282.2](#)

§282.2. Character education programs; legislative findings; clearinghouse for information; permissive curriculum; dissemination of information; progress reports; rules and regulations

A. The legislature finds and acknowledges that while character development is a parental responsibility, the responsibility also extends to others. The legislature further finds that character education must be augmented and reinforced by public schools in order to prepare students to be productive, self-sufficient citizens who can ably assume societal responsibilities.

B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide a clearinghouse for information on nonsectarian practices in character education programs within Louisiana and across the nation in order to assist public elementary and secondary schools in improving character education. Clearinghouse information shall include information about comprehensive character education programs or curricula, which focus on the development of character traits such as honesty, fairness, and respect for self and others.

C. Any city or parish school system may offer a nonsectarian character education curriculum pursuant to the provisions of this Section in kindergarten through grade twelve, which focuses on the development of character traits such as honesty, fairness, respect for self and others, or other character traits as determined by individual school communities.

D. The state superintendent of education shall insure that information on nonsectarian practices, models, and potential funding sources relative to character education programs is disseminated to all city and parish school systems in the state by not later than August 1, 1999, and by not later than August first annually thereafter.

E. Beginning January 1, 1999, the state superintendent shall annually provide a progress report on the implementation of the provisions of this Section and the effectiveness thereof to the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, and the governor.

F. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act necessary for the implementation of this Section and any city or parish school system offering a character education curriculum shall do so in accordance with such rules and regulations.

Acts 1998, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 149, §1.

Bulletin 741

Policy Statement:

Approved by BESE on March 25, 1999, "Districts shall develop a character education philosophy and implementation plan consistent with locally developed curriculum."

Character Education Clearinghouse

Character Education Programs in Louisiana:

Financial Literacy Program	Description
Character Counts (4-H)	Presently being implemented or piloted in varying degrees in parish/city school districts
Character First	Municipal program adopted by the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Learning for Life	A character education program for K-12 students - This program is currently being used in public and private schools.
Lion's Quest	A program of the Lion's Club International Foundation
Manners of the Heart	A manners and etiquette curriculum for elementary school students - This program is in place locally at Buchanan Elementary School in Baton Rouge, LA Contact - info@mannerstheheart.org , 215 Royal Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225.383.3235
Random Acts of Kindness Program	Endorsed by proclamation of Governor Mike Foster Contact - The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, info@actsofkindness.org 1727 Tremont Place, Denver, Colorado 80202

Additional Financial Literacy Resources:

Title	Description
The Character Education Partnership	Character.org is a nonprofit organization that strives to ensure every young person is educated, inspired, and empowered to be ethical and engaged citizens.
National Character Education Center	The site provides tools to engage students in character-based lessons.
AmeriCorps	AmeriCorps places thousands of young adults into intensive service positions where they learn valuable work skills, earn money for education, and develop an appreciation for citizenship.
Character Education Resources	Character Education Resources is a non-profit charitable organization that promotes Character and Citizenship Education by organizing, producing, promoting and funding Character and Citizenship Education training conferences for educators, school administrators and others interested in Character Education.
Children's Defense Fund	Through nationwide initiatives and community-based programs, CDF develops the next generation of servant-leaders who will continue to reweave the fabric of community for children and youth.
Concerned Businessmen's Association of America	The Children's Set A Good Example Campaign is a model moral education program.
Developmental Studies Center	The Center for the Collaborative Classroom is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to providing continuous professional learning for teachers and curricula that support the academic, ethical, and social development of children.
The Giraffe Project	The Mission of the Giraffe Heroes Project is to move people to stick their necks out for the common good, and to give them tools to succeed.
Institute for Global Ethics	The Institute for Global Ethics, provides a wide range of services and tools to foster informed ethical decision-making for corporations, government agencies, schools, and not for profit organizations.
Kenan Institute for Ethics - (Duke University, Durham, North Carolina)	The Kenan Institute is an interdisciplinary "think and do" tank committed to promoting moral reflection and commitment, conducting interdisciplinary research, and shaping policy and practice.

Character Education Clearinghouse

National Youth Leadership Council	For more than 30 years, the National Youth Leadership Council has transformed classrooms, empowered teachers, and captivated students by leading the way in providing high-quality, dynamic service-learning content to school districts, classrooms, out-of-school youth programs, and everything in between.
Project Wisdom	The Project Wisdom Educator Resource Site 2.0 is an easy-to-navigate source of quality character education materials.
Teaching Tolerance – Southern Poverty Law Center	The Teaching Tolerance program produces and distributes – free of charge – documentary films, books, lesson plans and other materials that promote tolerance and respect in our nation’s schools.