

**SUBJECT: CIVILITY, CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER EDUCATION**

**Civility, Citizenship and Character Education**

The Board of Education recognizes the value and significance of civility and understanding toward others. The practice and reinforcement of behavior and attitudes that embody civility and citizenship are important to healthy society as modeled by district staff.

The School District wishes to foster an environment where students and staff exhibit behavior that promotes positive educational practices, allows students to grow socially and academically, and encourages healthy dialogue in respectful ways. By presenting teachers and staff as positive role models, the District stresses positive communication and respectful treatment of all individuals in all situations. This policy is not intended to deprive and/or restrict any student of his/her right to freedom of expression but, rather, seeks to maintain, to the extent possible and reasonable, a safe, harassment free and educationally conducive environment for our students and staff.

Furthermore, the District shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades K through 12 includes a component on civility, citizenship and character education in accordance with Education Law. Character education is the deliberate effort to help all members of the school community understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values.

Character education shall instruct students on the principles of:

- a) Honesty,
- b) Tolerance,
- c) Personal responsibility,
- d) Respect for others,
- e) Observance of laws and rules,
- f) Courtesy,
- g) Dignity, and other traits which will enhance the quality of students' experiences in, and contributions to, the community.

As determined by the Board of Regents, and as further enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations, the components of character education shall be incorporated in existing School District curricula as applicable.

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Instruction

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The District encourages the involvement of staff, students, parents and community members in the implementation and reinforcement of character education in the schools.

Education Law Sections 801 and 801-a

Adopted 5/21/2025