



The Importance of Social, Emotional, and Character Development (SECD) in Shaping a Positive Environment for Learning.

NJASECD

New Jersey Alliance for Social Emotional, and Character Development

Today's Objectives



1. Introductions, Welcome, and an overview of NJASECD.
2. Understand the importance of Social, Emotional, and Character Development
3. Discuss how SECD impacts a school climate and culture
4. First steps to changing your school's climate and culture
5. Overview of the "11 Principles" for school improvement and "School of Character" designation
6. Show examples from New Jersey's Schools of Character which show the benefit of doing this work.

NJASECD



The mission of the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development (NJASECD) is to develop lifelong learners who are responsible citizens prepared to enter the global society. The Alliance assists educators and all other stakeholders in their efforts to foster ethical, responsible, and caring people as they model and teach the social emotional skills and core ethical values that lead to good character.

njasecd@gmail.com <http://njasecd.org/>

Start with Core Values



- ★ Determined by each school's Character Leadership Team with input from all sectors of the school community.
- ★ Includes a mix of Moral/Ethical, Performance, Intellectual, and Civic Values
- ★ Unique to each school based on perceptions and needs
- ★ Support Character Education and Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- ★ Focus on Common Language: All Stakeholders, including students, know and understand
- ★ Inform Expectations: Values represent expectations for desired behaviors for all in the school.
- ★ Visible throughout school
- ★ Hold activities with with both adults and students to review and reinforce the Core Values

Character Strengths/Core Values



Character Strengths/Core Values are at the heart of the Character Education movement which also embraces both SEL skills and aspects of a positive school culture and climate. While there are many lists of core values, Character.org, the national authority in this field, identifies four types of values: Ethical Values, Performance Values, Intellectual Values, and Civic Values. The examples listed are primary values, but this list is far from exhaustive. There are many more that can be considered in each category



SEL Competencies

Self Awareness

Identifying emotions
Self-perception/Identity
Recognizing strengths
Sense of self-confidence

Social Awareness

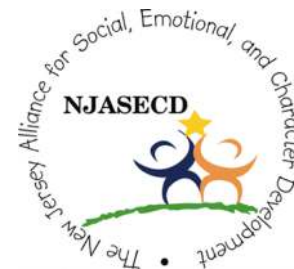
Perspective-taking
Empathy
Appreciating diversity
Respect for others

Relationship Skills

Communication
Social engagement
Building relationships
Working cooperatively
Resolving conflicts
Helping/Seeking help



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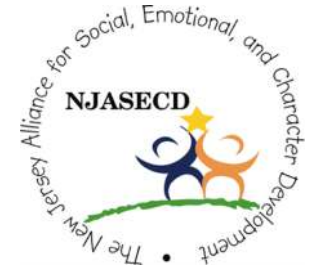
Self Management

Impulse control
Stress management
Self-discipline
Self-motivation
Perseverance
Goal-setting
Organizational skills

Responsible Decision Making

Identifying problems
• Analyzing situations
• Solving problems
• Evaluating
• Reflecting
• Ethical responsibility

Character and Social Emotional Learning



The diagram on the right shows that SEL and Character converge with an alignment of SEL competencies and core values.

This model was developed by Arthur Schwartz, President of Character.org.

<https://character.org/national-guidelines/>



Self Assessment/Organization



Many Schools Look Like This Image:
The "Jumbled Schoolhouse" (Elias)



A Coordinated Framework Provides Synergy:
The "Unjumbled Schoolhouse" (Elias)



Doing an inventory of programs and practices in your school...

- Ensures that time and resources are used wisely
- Maximizes existing efforts
- Creates consistency and order
- Reduces redundancy and streamlines service
- Identifies gaps in opportunities and underserved students
- Allows efficient communication to school community

This model was developed by Maurice Elias, Psy.D., Rutgers.

Supporting Inclusive Curriculum



- ★ The practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (because of their race, gender, sexuality, or ability)
- ★ Creating, fostering, and sustaining best practices that encourage each student to be fully themselves
- ★ A variety of learning platforms
- ★ Multiple types, times, and modified assessments
- ★ Books, passages, texts that include all genders, races, abilities, etc.
- ★ Tolerance and Celebration of Differences
- ★ Respect

Climate and Culture



Staff:

- In-Service
- Professional Development
- Ed Camp
- PLCs
- Faculty Mtgs
- Timely Topics
- Common Language
- Tap Staff Experience
- Webinars
- Teacher Voice and Engagement

Students:

- Morning Meeting
- Character Assembly
- “Think About it” Forms
- From Discipline to Mentoring
- Expectations of Respect
- Embed Character into Daily Lessons
- Leadership Opportunities
- Student Council
- Peer Mediators
- Student Voice and Engagement

Stakeholders:

- Character Education Committee
- Climate and Safety Committee
- PTA
- Parent Advisory Committee
- Parent Volunteers
- Parent Workshops
- National PTA School of Excellence
- Shows/Concerts/Dances
- STE(A)M Nights

NJ State Schools of Character



- ★ New Jersey State Schools of Character are recognized each year at the May **NJASECD Conference**.
- ★ NJASECD believes Character Education can and will have a global impact.
- ★ NJSOCs are dedicated to supporting social, emotional learning, identifying core values, and use a comprehensive, intentional, proactive approach to developing character, and creating a caring community.
- ★ NJSOCs focus on moral action and service learning.
- ★ NJSOCs engage families, partner with the community, enrich culture and climate, and embed character values throughout the curriculum.

The 11 Principles Framework: Cultivating a Culture of Character*



The “11 Principles” provide a framework for school improvement with a focus on SECD and School Culture and Climate and how work in this area can benefit everyone in the school community. Engaging everyone in the school community in addressing these principles helps to guide the development of these skills in the school.

Principle 1 - Core Values are defined, implemented, and embedded into school culture.

Principle 2 - The school defines “character” comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and doing.

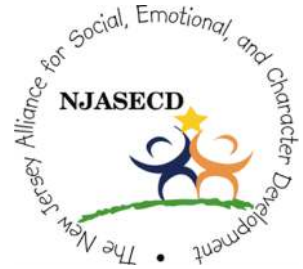
Principle 3 -The school uses a comprehensive, intentional, proactive approach to develop character.

Principle 4 - The school creates a caring community.

Principle 5 - The school provides students with opportunities for moral action. (particularly, service learning)

<https://character.org/11-principles-overview/>

11 Principles, continued...



Principle 6- Meaningful, challenging academic curriculum that respects all, develops character, & helps them succeed.

Principle 7 - Fosters students' self-motivation.

Principle 8 - All staff share the responsibility for developing, implementing, and modeling ethical character.

Principle 9 - The school's character initiative has shared leadership and long-range support for continuous improvement.

Principle 10 - The school engages families and communities as partners in the character initiative.

Principle 11 - Assesses character education implementation, culture and climate, and student growth.

<https://character.org/11-principles-overview/>


NJASECD Conference May 23, 2023




- ★ May 23, 2023 8:15 am - 3:00 pm
- ★ Rider University
- ★ NJSOC Ceremony will begin the conference.
- ★ In-Person
- ★ \$150
- ★ Register:

o njpsa.org

For more information: njasecd@gmail.com



Save the Date!
The New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development, Inc.
presents their
14th Annual Statewide Conference



**"FROM SURVIVAL TO SUCCESS...
by Exploring the Three C's"**

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 8:15 am-3:00 pm at Rider University
(Conference fee: \$150 (Includes NJASECD Membership and Buffet Lunch))

Let's face it—our schools have been in a SURVIVAL mode for more than two years. Now is the time to recognize our amazing survival and move on to SUCCESS implementing exciting ways to shape our kids to be capable, caring and committed human beings. How do we do it?

For advice, we asked the experts, educators just like you, to share what was working in their schools. Their most frequent response gave us our first "C"—CORE VALUES. "Core Values are great because everyone speaks the same language, and we agree to abide by the same rules." Other teachers pointed out that during the pandemic students had forgotten how to relate to one another: "We really had to teach them very basic Social-Emotional Learning skills." So SEL COMPETENCIES became our second "C". Lastly, we live in a polarized society in which many adults have ignored the basic rules of civility, and winning has become a consuming obsession. CITIZENSHIP, with its components of respect, compassion, courage and service, became our third "C." Schools successfully emphasizing CITIZENSHIP have also inspired students to plan and carry-out service-learning projects that have benefited the school and community.



Tired of ZOOM conferences? Yearning to connect with your colleagues? Eager to find stimulating strategies that will transform your school and your students? Join us at picturesque Rider University for this action-packed event. A panel of three educators will first discuss the three C's (which often overlap) and how they enrich school culture; then, a set of breakout sessions geared to the elementary, middle and high school levels will bring these concepts to life.

COME, CONNECT, CELEBRATE! You will not be disappointed.

2023 Schools of Character Recognition Ceremony will begin the conference.
For further information contact us at njasecd@gmail.com

New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development, Inc. (NJASECD) is the mission of the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development (NJASECD) to assist educators and all other stakeholders in their efforts to foster ethical, responsible and caring people as they model and teach the social-emotional skills and ethical and performance values that lead to good character.

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★ Character.org

Please consider joining **NJASECD** as a volunteer to support the continued work of Social, Emotional, and Character Development in New Jersey...

