

CHARACTER EDUCATION

ACPS 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, and shall conform to the following criteria established by the Board of Education. The program must:

- 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](#);
- Be implemented at the elementary and secondary levels;
- Complement the state Standards of Learning, be interwoven into existing curricula, and be 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; and
- 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: October 27, 2016

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § [22.1-208.01](#)

Cross Refs.:	IKF	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