

## **CHARACTER EDUCATION**

Code **IHAK** Issued **3/13**

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Purpose: To establish the board's vision for and the basic structure of character education in the schools.

The board is committed to the ideals of good character and citizenship through character education as part of the district's mission of successful teaching and learning.

These ideals include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Personal integrity and honesty
- Respect for the rights of all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, age, physical condition or mental state
- Sense of justice and fair play
- Trustworthiness
- Patriotism
- Citizenship
- Understanding, sympathy, concern and compassion for others
- Discipline and pride in one's work
- Respect for one's property and the property of others, including public property
- Understanding of the rights and obligations of a citizen in a democratic society
- Respect for authority
- Good work ethics
- Sound educational habits

The district's program of character education will include a meaningful and challenging curriculum that respects all learners and helps them succeed. The district will maintain school communities in which positive behavior is practiced, demonstrated, modeled and reinforced within an environment of mutual respect and dignity. The district will implement this program in close cooperation with parents/legal guardians of students.

The district will provide opportunities for the integration of character education throughout the curriculum in grades K-12. The process of integrating character education in school programs will include the involvement of the students, staff, families and the greater school community (elected officials, community/civic/business leaders, religious institutions, youth organizations, government, media and citizens at large).

The superintendent will recommend any changes to the curriculum necessary to include character education objectives in the instructional program. The superintendent will develop guidelines to implement this policy as necessary.

The district will require students to exhibit appropriate conduct when speaking with a public school employee while on school property or at a school-sponsored event.

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The district will assess the character education program as part of the district's annual strategic plan evaluation.

Cf. IG, IGCA, IHAQ, IHBC, IHCA, IKF, JLD, KB

Adopted 2/4/08

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Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code of Laws 1976, as amended:
  - a. Section 59-17-135(B) – Character education policy; respectful behavior encouraged as amended by the South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act.