

Key Take-Aways

The teach empower **AND** model Initiative Leadership Institute (All Schools)

December 10-11, 2009

Below are the key take-aways from Leadership Institute

- The 11 Principles of Character Education were covered during the first day of the Leadership Institute. Topics included: core ethical values; character formation; comprehensive, intentional, proactive; caring community; moral action; meaningful academic curriculum; self motivation; staff learning community; shared moral leadership and assessment.
- Quality Standard assessments were given to each participant to use as a baseline tool to help measure the 11 Principles in action. Sourcebooks were given to each group including strategies and tools to use with each principle.
- Breakout activities and group time on both days allowed for schools to interact and discuss the materials presented.
- Principle #2 - Understanding Character Development – was discussed on the second day. In a self-reflection activity, participants were asked to close their eyes and think about the 11 Principles and then discuss their reflections among their group. This exercise aided the process of understanding character development and how the principles apply to their school culture.
- How is character formed?
 - ~ Character forms over time through the combination of: Thinking (cognition), Feeling (emotions), Acting (behavior).
- The cognitive side of character – staff, students and parents must understand the core ethical values. Understanding is built through experiences. Common language is critical. Adults recognize what is good in the school.
- The emotional side of character – emotional dimensions include: encouraging conscience, developing humility, inspiration and building self-esteem by developing social competencies and using natural reinforcement. Practice developing behavioral skills (SEL).
- Self Awareness vs. Social Awareness vs. Self Management
 - ~ Self Awareness – emotional awareness and recognizing strengths
 - ~ Social Awareness – perspective taking, becoming a good listener, appreciating diversity and increased empathy and sensitivity to others
 - ~ Self Management – expressing and coping with emotions
- When it comes to maximizing a school's positive impact on character:
 - ~ Be intentional
 - ~ Be proactive
 - ~ Address all aspects of schooling
- Successful SECD shines the spotlight on three areas:
 - ~ School climate and culture
 - ~ Integration of CE / SEL into curriculum
 - ~ Methods of teaching (pedagogy)

Imagine... living and modeling the 11 principles of character.