

The Monthly Caring Habits Are:

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*"It takes our whole state
to raise each child."*

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Achieving Habits of Character

...One Month At A Time

★ SEPT Do Your Best Award Gold Nutrition & Obesity Responsibility

📢 OCT Be Patient & Listen Slow-down Lavender Safety Respect &

😊 NOV Show a Positive Attitude Sunny Yellow Stress Reduction Citizenship & Caring

🎉 DEC Celebrate Community Family & Friends Ever-Green Healthy Heart, Mind & Spirit Fairness & Citizenship

🤝 JAN Lend A Hand Gentle Aqua First Aid & CPR Caring & Responsibility

🧑 FEB You Count WOW! Fuchsia Be Drug-FREE! Respect & Honesty

🌸 MAR Resolve Conflicts Dove White Anger Management Fairness & Justice

🍁 APR Take Care of Environment Spring Green Be Smoke-FREE! Citizenship & Respect

♥ MAY Be Appreciative Grateful Pink Fitness & Obesity Caring & Respect

⬆️ JUNE Jump out of a Rut! JOLT! Orange Improve Your Health Disease Prevention Fairness & Responsibility

🌀 JULY Become Involved Patriot Red Hygiene & Cleanliness Citizenship & Caring

❓ AUG Know Who You Are Thoughtful Blue Health Education Immunizations Honesty & Responsibility

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A West Virginia High

Performance Learning

Framework for ALL



Dr. Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education



Office of Student Services and Health Promotion
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West Virginia Department of Education



The "Achieving Habits of Character" framework represents a major initiative by the West Virginia Board of Education and the West Virginia Department of Education that supports and acknowledges the importance of instilling respect, responsibility and citizenship in all our students. In addition, promoting healthful behaviors

is a component which will help our students become productive members of society. Educators are charged with the mission of modeling these traits each and every day. Therefore, this comprehensive statewide focus regarding developing habits of character, which correlates with the "Framework for High Performing School Systems" has been created to guide counties and schools through this process of developing habits of character.

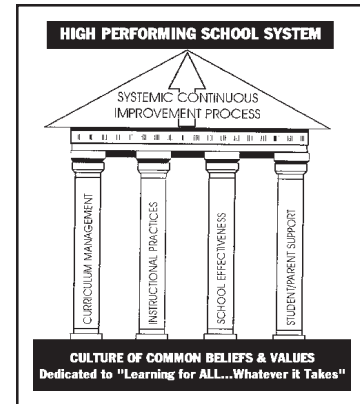
Dr. Steven L. Paine
State Superintendent of Schools

In 2001 the West Virginia Legislature passed the Character Education Integration Code §18-2-13, directing that character education be comprehensively integrated into all aspects of school culture, school functions and existing curriculum. Since then great strides have been made all across the state. Standardized test scores are up. West Virginia has achieved high national rankings for well-qualified teachers, for the percentage of black students graduating and going to college and for narrowing the achievement gap between blacks and whites.

The next levels of achievement will require further integration and consistency of values messaging throughout counties across the state and into our homes, our families and our communities. The West Virginia Achieves Habits of Character will create one voice and one community statewide. With this model we can uniformly engage parents, the greater community and the media to support us as educators in the process of best preparing our children in West Virginia for the future that lies ahead.

Connection to The High Performing Schools Framework

The West Virginia Achieves Habits of Character supports the framework for the Instructional Practices and the Student/Parent Support Pillars of the High Performing Schools Framework. The five high yield strategies identified in these pillars create (1) the expectation that classroom environments be nurturing and supportive with respect to individual differences and high expectations for all, which is in the Instructional Practices Pillar, (2) a culture that accepts responsibility for all students regardless of background or previous achievement, (3) systems for addressing student physical, social and emotional needs, (4) systemic developmental guidance and counseling program with character and career education, and (5) a culture that treats parents as respected and valued partners are all identified in the Student/Parent Support Pillar.



Creating a Statewide Framework

We all know the negative influences on our children today are overwhelming and often counterproductive to educational and developmental goals. However, our delivery of positive influences is locally based and the influence varies across counties and is unequally distributed.

With a statewide monthly thematic pattern of messaging, based on the months as commonly shared time frames - we can create a systemic framework for positive values messaging that is easily transferred inside and outside the school, and into families and communities. The year round framework will function much like holidays - bringing everyone together sharing the celebration of one healthy value each month.

"I have been nice to people who I used to be mean to"



22.5% drop in school detentions

What is the West Virginia Achieves Habits of Character?

Kids respond to "brand names" so this approach converts each month into a brand name for one aspect of social and one aspect of physical health. The model is based solely on the Caring Habit of the Month Adventure. Each month is identified with its own unique color - so students, families and even the entire community can easily recognize the value being observed each month - both by the name of the month and by the color. Everyone can easily be brought together and included in the adventure regardless of background or previous achievement.

How Can We Incorporate West Virginia Achieves Habits of Character into Our County or School?

Prior to implementing the West Virginia Achieves Habits of Character, it is important to first review and evaluate all of your schools' and/or county's existing programs. This will allow you to create, revise, or eliminate any necessary programs so that there is a consistent and common language surrounding your school and community that is based upon the Statewide Framework. The next step would be to contact Lisa Burton with the West Virginia Department of Education at 304-558-8830 or Elaine Park of Caring Habits of the Month Adventure at 724-453-0447. For more information about the Caring Habits visit www.caringhabits.org.

"I've treated people with more respect and have made honor roll twice...I might make it again."



Honor Rolls increased an average of 18.5%

What if We are Already Using Character Education Curriculum?

All existing school character education curriculum, all activities and on-going events can be re-organized into the West Virginia Achieves Habits of Character monthly framework so the power of each month's theme becomes easily repeated and reinforced throughout your community of stakeholders. Just like we all celebrate Valentine's Day, we can all celebrate these 12 aspects of good citizenship and good health together - and yet all retain the autonomy of our own methods and creative ideas.