



The Six Pillars of Character

The Six Pillars of Character are the core ethical values of **CHARACTER COUNTS!** These values were identified by a nonpartisan, secular group of youth development experts in 1992 as core ethical values that transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.

The Six Pillars of Character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. We recommend using the Pillars in your character education or SEL initiative in this specific order and using the acronym “*T.R.R.F.C.C.*” (terrific).

Each of the Six Pillars of Character help instill a positive school climate and a culture of kindness, making schools a safe environment for students to learn.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Be honest. Don't deceive, cheat, or steal.
- Have integrity. Do what you say you'll do.
- Keep your promises.
- Be loyal. Stand by your values.

RESPECT

- Follow the Golden Rule.
- Be accepting of differences.
- Be courteous to others.
- Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements.
- Be considerate of others' feelings.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Do what you are supposed to do. Try your best.
- Persevere. Keep on trying.
- Be self-disciplined.
- Think before you act. Consider the consequences.
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes.

FAIRNESS

- Play by the rules.
- Take turns and share.
- Be open-minded. Listen to others.
- Don't take advantage of others.

CARING

- Be kind.
- Be compassionate.
- Express gratitude.
- Forgive others.

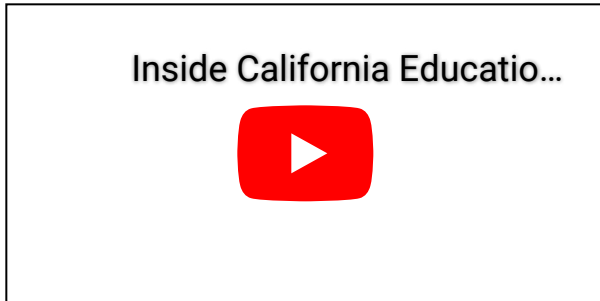
CITIZENSHIP

- Do your share to make your home, school, and community better.
- Cooperate.
- Stay informed. Vote.
- Be a good neighbor.

- Make choices that protect the safety and rights of others.
- Protect the environment.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Results

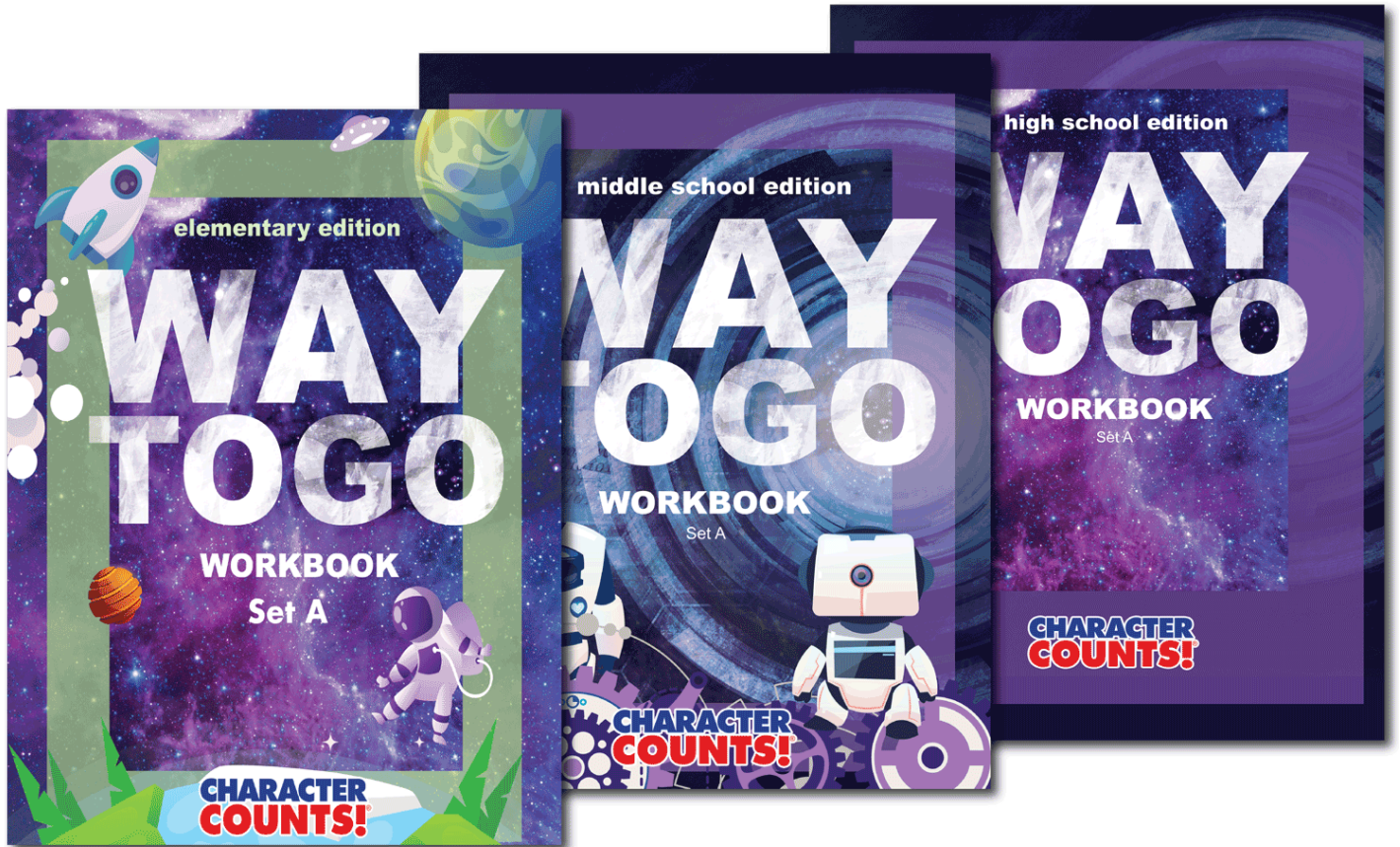
Schools participating in CHARACTER COUNTS! are seeing positive results in academic performance, social and emotional skills, school climate and character development.



Early Childhood Resources



Way To Go Journals



The Way To Go Journal engages students in personal reflection, small group discussions, and whole-group conversations about character and leadership.

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