

Accelerating Character Education Development

Empowering school leaders to integrate character development into school culture and environment

Character education is a key piece of the puzzle when working to create a positive and healthy school culture. NIET has developed an initiative called Accelerating Character Education Development, or ACED, to support school leaders in strengthening their overall school environment by integrating effective character development and related social and emotional learning skills into a school's instruction, culture, and climate. ACED builds the capacity of district leaders, principals, and their teams to be leaders of character and models for their students and school community.

By building the capacity of school and district leaders through the use of ACED tools and resources, character development will become part of a school's fabric, supporting a strong academic and social-emotional culture that provides all students the opportunity for success in school and in life.

Each school and district participating in the ACED initiative will receive:

- ▶ A two-day training in character development based on the *ACED Character Companion Tool* and NIET *Principal Standards Rubric*
- ▶ Use of the ACED Character Companion Tool for the school year
- ▶ Implementation, coaching, and consulting support for each school
- ▶ Access to the ACED online resource portal, including professional learning modules



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Education Development

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For more information about the ACED initiative, please contact Hank Staggs at hstaggs@niet.org.



Building Students of Character

The ACED mission is to equip school leadership teams with the knowledge and tools they need to become leaders of character who foster schools of character to ultimately develop students of character:

Leader of Character - Assumes responsibility as the centerpiece for character education within the school; understands, prioritizes, models, and has competencies to nurture schools of character.

School of Character - Has a planned, intentional, organized, and reflective character education approach that enables every student to flourish ethically, socially, and academically.

Student of Character - Develops practical wisdom and is a flourishing member of the school, community, and society.

How We Support Our Partners

As a part of the ACED suite of support, NIET works alongside districts and individual schools to support them with the implementation of research-backed character education practices. The training and support days are tailored to meet the specific needs of our partners, and leaders set the goals for this work based on their community, their school's strengths and needs, and their vision.

NIET also provides school leaders with a companion tool resource that is aligned to NIET's *Principal Standards Rubric* to help incorporate character development into leadership practices. This tool provides descriptors and strategies for school leaders and leadership teams to integrate character development into effective practices for high-quality school leadership.

At the end of the year, 100% of our partners rated the school-specific support day as very or extremely helpful in drafting an action plan for initial implementation of character education.

How helpful was the school-specific support day for ...

