

**CHARACTER-BASED CHALLENGES
FACED BY SCHOOLS**

Performance Challenges:

1. Poor test scores
2. Drop-outs
3. Inadequate sense of responsibility toward schoolwork
4. Lack of college preparedness
5. Lack of skills needed for the workplace
6. Lack of skills needed for global competitiveness

Moral Challenges:

1. Academic dishonesty
2. Disrespect for self and others
3. Discipline problems
4. Bullying/peer cruelty
5. Unhealthy lifestyle (sexual activity, substance abuse)
6. Low civic engagement

**CHARACTER NEEDED FOR
CHARACTER-BASED CHALLENGES**

PERFORMANCE CHARACTER—qualities needed to do one’s best work, such as:

- Self-discipline/goal-setting
- Work ethic
- Diligence/concern for excellence/pride in work
- Confidence
- Perseverance
- Capacity for collaboration/teamwork
- Organization
- Resourcefulness
- Curiosity
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Openness to critique

MORAL CHARACTER—qualities needed to be one’s best ethical self, such as:

- Honesty
- Empathy
- Fairness
- Respect for self and others
- Compassion
- Capacity for collaboration
- Integrity
- Courage
- Generosity
- Self-control
- Humility
- Citizenship

**RESEARCH-BASED
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT
FACTORS**

ETHICAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (ELC)

1. Connectedness
2. School Touchstone (common creed)
3. Honor code
4. Student voice
5. Ethic of personal responsibility (striving for one’s best)
6. Ethic of collective responsibility (bringing out the best in others)

PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL LEARNING COMMUNITY (PELC)

1. Effective leadership
2. High level of collegiality
3. Staff voice
4. Sharing of practices (e.g., Critical Friends Groups)
5. Common assessments
6. Data-based decisions

CLASSROOM FACTORS

1. Rigorous curriculum
2. Community That Supports & Challenges
3. Self-study/goal-setting, Rubrics
4. Other study
5. Public performance
6. Culture of critique
7. Collaborative projects
8. Study skills

