

Elk Grove Unified recognizes the importance of incorporating character education into a student's curriculum.

Character education helps teach students how to understand, appreciate and internalize positive character traits such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, civic virtue, honesty and personal responsibility.

Programs

Many schools participate in character education programs in the district, both at the elementary and secondary levels. At the elementary level, many schools focus on a specific character trait each month. Posters in the library, classroom, cafeteria, office, etc. display rules and character traits which are the expectation of the schools.

Some schools give awards to students based on recommendations from teachers. Others may highlight a student or two per month in their school newsletter for outstanding character choices. Monthly recognition assemblies award specific positive traits. These outstanding students are recognized for the trait they have exhibited throughout the months prior. Since student input has been a part of the rules as they were established, they have great buy-in to earning the recognition and making every effort to follow the established character developing trait.

At the secondary level, some schools – including Laguna Creek High School – offer activities that focus on helping others, such as the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program and the Striving Toward Equity in All People (STEP) program.

Awards and Honors

Character education programs at Elk Grove Unified are known for their innovation and creativity and have been recognized both at the state and national levels for their excellence.

At the national level, Charles Mack Elementary School earned a “Promising Practices” award from the Character Education Partnership in 2007. Mack was one of more than 100 schools from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Singapore to receive the award. Mack Elementary was honored for their “Think It Through” worksheet and their “Student Character Education” video.



At the state level, both Prairie Elementary and Mack Elementary have been recognized for their character education programs by being named California Schools of Character (CSOC). The CSOC awards program recognizes schools or districts that demonstrate an outstanding character education initiative that yields positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance. Mack was named a CSOC in 2007. Prairie has received this honor twice – once in 2007 and again in 2009.