

## Culture and Character: Fostering a Safe, Respectful, and Orderly Community

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### Overview

The climate in an Expeditionary Learning school is characterized by physical and emotional safety, respect and courtesy, and a disciplined environment. Teachers and school leaders communicate clear expectations for students' conduct. Policies and practices encourage students to take responsibility for their actions, their learning, and their shared space.



## **BENCHMARK 3:**

### **FOSTERING A SAFE, RESPECTFUL, AND ORDERLY COMMUNITY**

#### **A. Clear Expectations Schoolwide**

1. Schoolwide expectations for student character and conduct are founded in courtesy, respect for others, and a commitment to learning.
2. These expectations are embodied in a formal, written statement or code of conduct.
3. The school establishes policies and procedures that support the code of conduct.
4. Adults model the character traits and code of conduct.
5. All students have the opportunity to share leadership roles and school responsibilities.
6. The code of conduct is evident in the lunchroom, in the halls, during recess, before and after school, and when students represent the school in the community.

#### **B. Teaching the Code of Conduct and the Character Traits**

1. A common language communicates the school's follow-through and commitment to the code of conduct and the character traits.
2. Staff explicitly teach students the code of conduct and the character traits.
3. Student behavior is addressed with an emphasis on education rather than punishment.
4. Consequences for misbehavior are logical and consistent.
5. Classroom norms reflect and reinforce the school's code of conduct and the character traits.
6. Teachers include students when establishing classroom norms.
7. Teachers set up and maintain systems that support productive and orderly classrooms.
8. Teachers foster independent behavior management skills.

#### **C. Welcoming the Community**

1. Students actively welcome visitors to the school, using established practices and norms.
2. All students are trained to be ambassadors for the school within and outside of the building.
3. School leaders, teachers, and students have traditions for recognizing the contributions of outside experts and volunteers.
4. Students share their work with visitors.