

## Developmental Assets in Schools

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
<b><u>Commitment to Learning</u></b>	<b><u>Support</u></b>	<b><u>Empowerment</u></b>
<p>The commitment-to-learning assets reflect how connected young people are to their schools, how motivated they are to achieve, and whether they express their curiosity and work ethic in homework and reading for fun.</p> <p><b>To Promote this asset in your school:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relate life content and curricula to real-life situations and issues. Use enrichment materials.</li> <li>• Make your classroom a warm and welcoming place to be.</li> <li>• Set up a homework hotline staffed by teachers, other adults, and other students. If your school is online, start a homework help chat room or bulletin board.</li> <li>• Provide many opportunities for parents and other adults to volunteer at school.</li> <li>• Pair younger students with older students who love to read.</li> <li>• Help students to write their own books; start a classroom library of student-created books.</li> </ul>	<p>The support assets refer to the ways in which children are loved, respected, and accepted. Ideally, children experience an abundance of support not only in their families but also from many people in a variety of settings, such as in schools or religious congregations, among extended family, within the family’s social network, and in other areas in which socialization occurs.</p> <p><b>To Promote this asset in your school:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During school conferences and parent meetings, focus on the positive.</li> <li>• Interact with students so they learn to interact with others.</li> <li>• Occasionally eat lunch with the students in the cafeteria.</li> <li>• Invite students to identify ways they can promote caring in their neighborhoods.</li> <li>• Start a lunchtime, study hall, or after-school discussion group for students who want to “just talk.”</li> </ul>	<p>Every child needs to feel safe and valued. The empowerment assets focus on community perceptions of youth and the opportunities they have to contribute to society in meaningful ways.</p> <p><b>To Promote this asset in your school:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage students to get involved in community service.</li> <li>• Cultivate leadership skills in many students, not just a select few.</li> <li>• Include service learning as part of the regular school curriculum.</li> <li>• Train teenagers how to help, tutor, and befriend younger children.</li> <li>• Teach children how to tell adults about bad things that happen to them.</li> <li>• Establish a peer mediation program so students can help each other resolve conflicts peacefully.</li> </ul>

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<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
<b><u>Constructive Use of Time</u></b>	<b><u>Positive Identity</u></b>	<b><u>Positive Values</u></b>
<p>Whether through schools, community organizations, congregations, or for-profit centers, planned activities encourage positive growth and contribute to the development of the other assets.</p> <p><b>To Promote this asset in your school:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honor school staff who volunteer with youth programs.</li> <li>• Incorporate information about religious holidays and traditions into class discussions. Check school policy first.</li> <li>• Encourage coaches, club sponsors, and others not to overschedule students.</li> <li>• Limit the number of nights per week that students can be involved in school activities. Train adult leaders to help kids to set priorities.</li> <li>• Communicate with local religious organizations. Share holiday and activity schedules.</li> </ul>	<p>This category focuses on young people’s views of themselves—their own sense of purpose, worth, and promise. Without a positive sense of who they are youth may feel powerless, without a sense of initiative and direction.</p> <p><b>To Promote this asset in your school:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whenever possible give students choices about which assignment to do, which project to work on, whether to write an essay or a poem.</li> <li>• Teach students to accept criticism and respond in constructive ways.</li> <li>• Give students opportunities to reflect on and shape their own future.</li> <li>• Encourage and support students in pursuing their dreams.</li> <li>• Create a climate of optimism. Expect students to succeed.</li> <li>• Draw connections between classroom learning and significant opportunities, needs, and issues in the world.</li> </ul>	<p>Positive values are important “internal compasses” that guide young people’s priorities and choices. Although there are many values that American society cherishes and seeks to nurture in youth, the asset framework focuses on several widely shared values that affect youth behavior.</p> <p><b>To Promote this asset in your school:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honor and affirm students who help others. Give special awards and recognition for service.</li> <li>• Offer a unit of study on people who have made a difference in the world through activism and service.</li> <li>• Encourage and expect all faculty and staff to model integrity.</li> <li>• Make it easier for students to be honest than to be dishonest.</li> <li>• Encourage and expect all faculty and staff to model honesty.</li> <li>• Create a classroom display about honesty.</li> </ul>

## Developmental Assets in Schools

### March

#### Social Competencies

These assets are important personal and interpersonal skills youth need to negotiate the maze of choices, options, and relationships they face. These skills also lay the foundation for independence and competence as adults.

**To Promote this asset in your school:**

- Let students plan class projects, assignments, even schoolwide activities.
- Create assignment sheets for students.
- Use teaching styles that promote interaction and friendship-building.
- Provide activities that increase students' awareness and acceptance of differences.
- Encourage students to express their feelings, beliefs, values, and opinions without fear of being put down.
- Make conflict resolution training available to students, faculty and staff.
- Form a Peace Club at your school.

### April

#### Empowerment

Every child needs to feel safe and valued. The empowerment assets focus on community perceptions of youth and the opportunities they have to contribute to society in meaningful ways.

**To Promote this asset in your school:**

- Regularly invite people from the community to speak to students about their careers, volunteer activities, or other areas of interest.
- Cultivate leadership skills in many students, not just a select few.
- Have students collect items for distribution to needy families in your neighborhood or community.
- Provide information and training to students about how to protect their safety and the safety of others.
- Actively work to create an environment that accepts, welcomes, and celebrates diversity. Don't tolerate bullying or disrespect of any kind.

### May

#### Commitment to Learning

The commitment-to-learning assets reflect how connected young people are to their schools, how motivated they are to achieve, and whether they express their curiosity and work ethic in homework and reading for fun.

**To Promote this asset in your school:**

- Affirm and encourage achievement in diverse areas as students discover their own interests and capabilities.
- Make your classroom a warm and welcoming place to be.
- Make homework relevant to other parts of students' lives-family, work, hobbies, and community.
- Produce school T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, jackets, buttons, and other items so students can wear visible signs of their school affiliation.
- Provide quiet time during the school day for students to read-and a cozy corner of the classroom where they can go. Let them choose what they want to read.

## Developmental Assets in Schools

### June

#### Boundaries and Expectations

Youth need to hear clear and consistent messages that set boundaries. Ideally, young people experience boundary assets in the family, at school, in after-school programs, and in the neighborhood. They provide a set of consistent messages about appropriate behavior and expectations across socializing contexts.

#### **To Promote this asset in your school:**

- Respect and reinforce family values and rules as much as possible.
- Include parents in meetings with students regarding problem behaviors and broken rules.
- If you publish a student handbook, send copies home to parents.
- Notice and celebrate times when students follow school policies and respect school boundaries.
- Survey the school neighborhood to learn if neighbors have any concerns or complaints about student behavior.

### July-August

#### Constructive Use of Time

Whether through schools, community organizations, congregations, or for-profit centers, planned activities encourage positive growth and contribute to the development of the other assets.

#### **To Promote this asset in your school:**

- Have a school talent show.
- Provide free access to instruments, art materials, and lessons for students who can't afford them.
- Offer extracurricular activities that appeal to a wide variety of needs and interests.
- Encourage coaches, club sponsors, and others not to overschedule students.
- Encourage students to get involved in activities outside of school.
- Combine or coordinate with school and community organizations and clubs.
- Honor school staff who volunteer with youth programs.

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