

Where Are We?

The Guideposts Quiz

The following Guideposts Quiz is a quick way to get a sense of how far you've come on your journey to developing a comprehensive social and character development program. Ask your character education committee, or primary stakeholder group to take the quiz together. See the Interpreting the Quiz Results section for some suggestions on using the quiz as a reflection tool for taking your bearings on your social and character program development journey.

For each of the following statements, please rate your school's level of agreement on a 4-point Likert scale:

1	2	3	4
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

1. ___ You have identified leaders interested in and committed to school-wide character development.
2. ___ You have administered a school climate inventory to all stakeholders to assess school needs.
3. ___ A steering committee (advisory board) has been established, committed to long-range character growth.
4. ___ You have revisited school climate data to determine if your programs are working.
5. ___ Your school is willing to invest time and energy to sustain meaningful change as opposed to quick fixes.
6. ___ Your team has generated objectives and activities that can be monitored and modified when necessary.
7. ___ Students are included in determining school needs and identifying potential program ideas.
8. ___ Your steering committee regularly discusses and assesses your action plan.
9. ___ Your committee has a public relations strategy in place to publicize and celebrate achievements.
10. ___ Your school has effectively used professional development to nurture its social and character education efforts.
11. ___ Character-building activities are designed to address agreed upon program objectives.
12. ___ You have consistently included parents and community members in unearthing perceptions and school needs.
13. ___ Conditions are ripe for change, and those feelings are shared among school stakeholders.
14. ___ Your school has studied best practices and research from many sources to enrich your action plan.
15. ___ Your school uses a collaborative approach to monitor progress, troubleshoot implementation issues, and make necessary adjustments.
16. ___ Your school documents progress through multiple means, such as photos, movies, and student work products.
17. ___ Staff are encouraged to function as a professional learning community in guiding implementation.
18. ___ All members of your school community are made aware of programs and are encouraged to participate.
19. ___ Your steering committee and school leadership teams routinely discuss and monitor programs.
20. ___ Your steering committee consists of members of each stakeholder group, including students.
21. ___ Your steering committee evaluates your program systematically and makes appropriate changes

ANSWER KEY

Add up your scores from the following questions:

#1, #5, and #13	_____	(Guidepost #1)
#2, #7, and #14	_____	(Guidepost #2)
#3, #12, and #20	_____	(Guidepost #3)
#6, #8, and #11	_____	(Guidepost #4)
#10, #17, and #15	_____	(Guidepost #5)
#9, #16, and #18	_____	(Guidepost #6)
#4, #19, and #21	_____	(Guidepost #7)

Interpreting the Quiz Results

The primary purpose for doing the Quiz is to help you use the Guideposts framework in a practical way to improve the quality and effectiveness of your program development efforts. Taking the Quiz by yourself may be an interesting exercise but doing it as a team will be much more useful. Here is one way to proceed:

- Calculate your total score. Don't be discouraged if it is low -- even schools that have developed top-notch, comprehensive character education programs have started where you are. If you have a high score, you may want to focus your discussion on issues of long-term sustainability for your program.
- Discuss your total score with other team members. More important than your score is using the Quiz with other team members to explore your perceptions of where you are on your journey. Do you have the same view of the status of your program? What aspects of your vision do you share? How does your history with social and character development efforts affect your understanding of where you are and where you need to go next?
- Review your scores (each Guidepost scores from 3 to 12) for each guidepost, and compare and contrast your score with other team members. Why did you score specific guideposts differently? Where was there clear consensus? Did you agree on the Guideposts where the scores were lowest? Those low-scoring Guideposts should be discussed as targets for your program improvement plan.
- What are the implications of your discussion for how to move ahead with your program planning? What is your biggest asset? Your biggest need for improvement?