



**Invitation to Participate
Elementary School Committee
Character Education Network:
Service Providers Aligning with Character
Education; Service Providers Guide; Service
Providers Community Fair**

*Building socialization skills and positive character traits
for Nashville elementary school children*

**Date of Revised Invitation Release: May 2009
Deadline for Submission of Proposals: June 15, 2009**

Overview of Alignment Nashville

The purpose of Alignment Nashville (AN) is to align the community's resources in support of public education. Our goal is to improve the achievement of all school children through a citywide partnership initiative that will provide important and needed services to the schools. Your expertise and programs are critical to the success of Alignment Nashville. We hope that you will join us in this effort.

Invitation to Participate Process

The Character Education Elementary Committee has developed a project to align the resources of community organizations – non-profits, government agencies, colleges and universities, businesses, faith-based organizations, and others – in support of a common goal. The Invitation to Participate (ITP) process provides these community organizations with an opportunity to propose ways that they can align their existing resources for increased impact on student outcomes. The committee will review proposals based on organizational capacity and expertise, willingness to collaborate, and likelihood of success.

Benefits to Participating Organizations

Participation in this project provides your organization with the following benefits:

- Improvements in outcomes for all Nashville children, particularly those who need additional support to realize their potential.
- Opportunities to contribute in areas in which you have specific skills and capacities.

- Opportunities for collaboration and for building individual agency capacity.
- Data and measureable results to support outcome reporting to funding agencies.
- The opportunity to be a partner with a city-wide initiative to redesign, elevate, and increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services to Nashville’s school children.
- The ability to work directly with Metro schools, and to establish a strong relationship with key administrators and teachers.
- The opportunity to receive matching funds through grant requests by AN to foundations and other sources of support. Your organization’s contribution of resources to the work of AN will enhance your potential to be a recipient of related funding.

Elementary School Committee Project Description

Introduction

The Alignment Nashville Elementary Committee was developed as one of the first Alignment Nashville grade level committees. Initially, the committee was asked to review the MNPS strategic plan and develop an AN tactic to address one strategy of the plan.

MNPS Goal Selected

Acquire the basic skills of reading, writing, and socialization and values that lead to becoming good citizens.

MNPS Strategy Selected

Ensure all students have access to counseling services and community programs that teach socialization skills and character education.

Tactics Designed by Committee

Tactic 1: Focus community organizations and schools on building socialization skills and character education traits for elementary school children.

Tactic 2: Develop a resource/referral guide of organizations and non-profits that have programs or initiatives that build socialization skills and character education traits for elementary school children for utilization by principals, assistant principals, school counselors, media specialists, and teachers at all MNPS elementary schools.

Tactic 3: Host a community fair of organizations and non-profits that have programs or initiatives that build socialization skills and character education traits of elementary school children for principals, assistant principals, and school counselors from all MNPS elementary schools to attend.

Committee Membership

Todd Wigginton, Chair, MNPS
Melissa Spradlin, Vice-Chair, Book'em

Tom Carr, Center for Character Development/Character Counts! at Lipscomb University
Dave Moore, MNPS
Sheila Montgomery, Hillsboro Church of Christ
Judith Maloney, MNPS
Judy Goetz, Nashville Public Library
Greg Patterson, MNPS
Glen Biggs, Alignment Nashville

Project Overview

The development of socialization skills and integration of character education are an important part of a child's academic success. The Alignment Nashville Elementary School Committee continues to develop a network of organizations that provide services in support of elementary schools' character education efforts.

The Character Education Network supports MNPS efforts to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Knowledge of character traits and behavior expectations
2. Improvements in behavior and social development
3. Improvements in school climate
4. Improved student achievement

Members of the Character Education Network provide the following categories of services, both in and out of school:

1. Mentoring
2. Tutoring
3. Assemblies/presentations/speakers
4. Marketing/publicity
5. Student incentive programs/items
6. Books/materials/resources

Network members may provide services outside of these listed categories, as long as they support the outcomes listed above.

Members of the network are asked to support the character education traits and calendar below:

Character Education Calendar/Themes

First 9 Weeks (August/September/October):	Respect and Responsibility
Second 9 Weeks (October/November/December)	Fairness and Caring (include Kindness)
Third 9 Weeks (January/February/March)	Honesty and Trustworthiness (include Courage)
Fourth 9 Weeks (March/April/May)	Citizenship

Tactics

Tactic 1: Focus community organizations and schools on building socialization skills and character education traits for elementary school children.

Tactic 2: Develop a resource/referral guide of organizations and non-profits that have programs or initiatives that build socialization skills and character education traits for elementary school children for utilization by principals, assistant principals, school counselors, media specialists, and teachers at all MNPS elementary schools.

Tactic 3: Host a community fair of organizations and non-profits that have programs or initiatives that build socialization skills and character education traits of elementary school children for principals, assistant principals, and school counselors from all MNPS elementary schools to attend.

Objectives:

- Increase community alignment with and participation in delivering character education to elementary schools.
- Develop a resource/referral guide of programs, organizations, agencies and non-profits currently offering character education initiatives and/or programs in the Nashville community.
- Host a community fair of programs, organizations, agencies and non-profits currently offering character education initiatives and/or programs in the Nashville community.
- Increase educators' awareness of community resources for character education delivery.
- Encourage educators to utilize community resources more frequently.

Target Population

All MNPS elementary students.

Needed Activities from Community Service Providers

Community service organizations (including nonprofits, faith-based, service organizations, neighborhood groups and businesses) are asked to propose programs, initiatives and activities that support socialization and character education for elementary school children in a planned way both in and out of school. The committee desires proposals that support what is happening in the schools, even if the activity occurs outside the school and outside of school hours. One desired outcome is that children attending elementary schools will have many opportunities to learn about character traits and to see it modeled effectively in many places, at many times of the day and by many adults.

In-school character development programs will vary from school to school, as the principal, teachers and counselors determine. However, schools will emphasize the following traits:

Character Education Traits 2009 – 2010

RESPECT

Good manners, honesty, tolerant of differences, consider other people's feelings

RESPONSIBILITY

Do your best, think before you act, keep trying, accept responsibility for your actions, take initiative

FAIRNESS

Don't blame others carelessly, take turns, share, be open-minded, don't take advantage of others

CARING

Help people, be kind, show that you care, demonstrate gratitude

HONESTY

Telling the truth, not lying, admitting wrong doing, being sincere

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Do what's right, have courage, build a good reputation, be true to your word, don't cheat or steal

CITIZENSHIP

Cooperate, obey laws, vote, protect the environment, and be involved in the community

Needed activities from Community Service Providers include, but are not limited to:

- Mentoring with an emphasis on appropriate 9-week character trait(s)
- Tutoring with an emphasis on the appropriate 9-week character trait(s)
- Reading books that develop knowledge of character traits
- In-school and out-of-school assemblies and presentations
- Publicity about the Character Education Initiative
- Speakers for schools to talk about the appropriate 9-week character trait(s)
- Incentive programs/donations for students who exhibit positive character development
- Books and other materials related to character education

Organizations are encouraged to propose services that are not listed here, but that support the project's expected outcomes (see below).

Expected Dates of Implementation

Deadline for Submission of Invitations to Participate – June 15, 2009

Review of Invitations to Participate – June and July

Development of Resource/Referral Guide – July

Distribution of Resource/Referral Guide – August/September

Implementation of Character Education Services – August/September and on-going

Community Fair – October

Assessment – April/May

Expected Outcomes

Children in elementary schools will make gains in four areas:

- Knowledge of character traits and behavior expectations
- Improvements in behavior and social development
- Improvements in school climate
- Improved student achievement

Assessment Strategies

Outcomes will be assessed through qualitative and quantitative assessments of schools and students. Results will be compared with baseline data. Metro Schools Research staff, Alignment Nashville and the Elementary Committee will analyze the data to identify trends and targeted areas for improvement.

Assessment data and analysis will be shared with all participants in the project.

Instructions for Submitting a Response

Organizations who submit a proposal in response to this ITP must agree to the following statements of intent and conditions:

- This will be a collaborative effort. To achieve the goals of AN, organizations will need to work together to provide services.
- While there are currently no financial resources to support the effort in the short-term, AN intends to seek significant resources to support successful models for collaboration and delivery.
- Your organization may need to redirect resources, personnel and otherwise, to participate in this project.
- Alignment Nashville has a small staff and is also supported by leadership from Metro Schools. These resources will be used where feasible to support your efforts.
- When delivering services in the schools, your organization must comply with MNPS policies.
- Your organization agrees to report resources contributed to committee work, using AN forms and processes.
- Your organization will be asked to provide process and output information (i.e., services actually provided, number of students served, student demographics, sites, etc.) on an annual basis.

If you agree to the above statements of intent and conditions, we invite you to submit response by June 15, 2009 on the Alignment Nashville website through the URL below:

<http://www.alignmentnashville.org/members/invite/elementary-character-education-network-42>

You may work on the application and save it to complete or submit at a later time. Please be prepared to provide the following information:

- Organization name:
 - Contact person:
 - Email:
 - Phone:
 - Fax:
 - Mailing address:
 - City:
 - State:
 - Zip:

- Website:
- Organization's mission statement:
- Description of types and locations of services to be delivered:
- Capacity of organization to deliver these services:
- How the organization plans to collaborate with other community organizations, the public schools, and businesses to deliver services:
- Documentation of the organization's previous success:
- Description of plans to document your activities and outputs, as well as to measure the outcomes of your program:
- Indicate which school(s) you wish to collaborate with during school year 2009-10:
- Any additional information you wish to share:

Proposals will be reviewed by the Elementary School Committee; a representative of the committee will contact you regarding the status of your proposal within 6 weeks of your submission.

**If you have questions regarding the project or the ITP process,
please contact:**

Glen Biggs
Alignment Nashville
glen.biggs@nashville.gov
615.880.1890