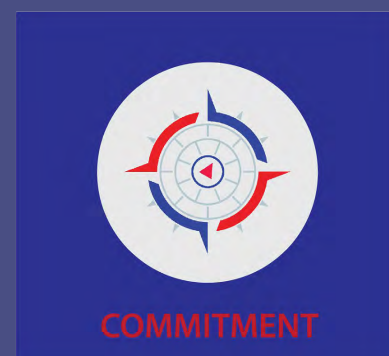


## Youth & Community Development Curriculum



(Excerpt)



Copyright © 2023 DNA Educational Solutions

All rights reserved. No part of the material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the copyright owner.

Publisher -DNA Educational Solutions

Columbia, SC 29201

Columbia SC 29201

[DNAeducationalSolutions.com](http://DNAeducationalSolutions.com)

Published in the United States of America

Library of Congress Catalog-in-Publication Data

ISBN

Publisher: DNA Educational Solutions

Editor: in Chief Robert Kirton, Ed.D.

Graphic Illustrator: Donna Penn



# Table of Contents

<b>Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Overview of Project Build USA	
B. Mission and Objectives	
C. Importance of the Program	
<b>II. Four Cornerstones of Project Build USA</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A. Character</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Character Development	
2. Self-Awareness and Reflection	
3. Responsibility and Accountability	
<b>B. Craftsmanship</b>	<b>29</b>
1. Introduction to Craftsmanship	
2. Safety Guidelines and Best Practices	
3. Apprenticeship Opportunities and Career Paths	
<b>C. Community</b>	<b>68</b>
1. Community Engagement	
2. Local Needs and Issues	
3. Building Inclusive and Diverse Communities	
<b>D. Commitment</b>	<b>98</b>
1. Goal Setting and Planning	
2. Time Management and Focus	
3. Growth and Reflection	
<b>Appendices</b>	
<b>References and Resources</b>	



# **Project Build USA**

## **Overview**

**Mission:** “Building Better Communities One Student at a Time”.

### **Philosophy:**

Project Build USA is committed to “Building Better Communities One Student at a Time” through its comprehensive range of resources and initiatives. With over three decades of sustained research, Project Build USA offers tailored curriculum, specialized training workshops, and groundbreaking initiatives for youth and community development.

### **The Cornerstones:**

At the core of Project Build USA are our fundamental cornerstones: Character, Career, Community, and Commitment. These cornerstones serve as the foundation of the curriculum and our program’s operational structure. We provide a roadmap for creating positive change and improvement within a community.

### **Needs Assessment:**

One of the key strengths of Project Build USA is its ability to customize programs and training to align with the unique objectives of each community we work with. Through a comprehensive needs assessment, we identify the specific areas that require attention and then we develop programs and initiatives that address those needs. We don't bring pre-packaged solutions; we bring collaboration and innovation.

### **Collaboration and Alignment:**

Project Build USA seamlessly integrates with a diverse array of educational environments, including alternative schools, after-school programs, career centers, and community organizations. We build upon existing success and work closely with community leaders and stakeholders to create innovative curriculum and programs that align with the needs and vision of your community.

**Collaborate with Project Build USA for Youth and Community Development.**



**Project Build, USA** is designed to help young people reach their full potential by establishing a high performance culture through four researched based cornerstones that infuse engaging activities, interactive experiences, all with rewarding outcomes in a culture of success and belonging.



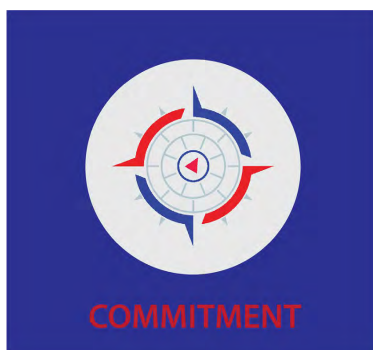
The Character Cornerstone emphasizes the development of strong moral and ethical principles, leadership skills, and a sense of social responsibility. The character cornerstone is designed to empower individuals to become well-rounded, compassionate, and responsible members of the community.



The Career Cornerstone integrates academic and career education, fostering pride in craftsmanship, career readiness, and personal growth. It offers structured project-based learning, ensuring students excel in their chosen career.



The Community Cornerstone dives deep into community engagement, addressing local issues, and promoting diversity and inclusion. Students master craftsmanship while building thriving communities through real-world projects. "Building Better Communities One Student at a Time".



The Commitment Cornerstone reflects the values of the Character Cornerstone. It provides goal-setting precision, time management expertise, and growth-focused reflection. Students develop the skills and mindset to stay dedicated to their goals and contribute positively to their community and beyond.



# CHARACTER

Character is the combination of mental characteristics and behavior that distinguishes a person or group. Our Character is what determines how we respond to the situations and circumstances of life.

# Character

CHALLENGE

2 CHANGE



ACTIVITY

# 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER

## Trustworthiness

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country

## Respect

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

## Responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

## Fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

## Caring

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

## Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer



## CHARACTER COMMITMENT

Pillars of Support	Personal Commitment	Support/ Resources
Trustworthiness		
Respect		
Responsibility		
Fairness		
Caring		
Citizenship		

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

# CHARACTER ACTIVITY



## Your Personal Board of Directors

This activity will help you to develop your Personal Board of Directors. Your board should be a group of accomplished individuals who you can turn to for inspiration, advice, and encouragement. It is recommended that you have 5-7 members with one or more of the following roles:

**Advisor:** One who will advise you in the area of obtaining knowledge ie. education, finance, etc.

**Analyst:** One who will provide information related to your career, social, and emotional needs.

**Challenger:** One who will challenge you to be determined and focused in your actions.

**Influencer:** Be careful of the influencer they are wild cards and they can nudge their way on the board whether it be positive or negative influences! ie. Who influences your clothing, language, etc.?

**Mentor:** One who provides growth by sharing resources and networks.

**Motivator:** One who you can turn to for encouragement

**Wise Elder:** One whom you will turn to for knowledge and wisdom.

Complete the chart on the next page by identifying individuals you would like to serve on your Personal Board of Directors. Use this list to turn to when facing daily decisions and for personal inspiration.

You don't have to personally know the members on your board. The members may include persons living or deceased, old or young, male or female.

Communicating with your board members is important to help you make decisions and learn from their experience.

By the establishment of your board, you are the top executive

As the Chief Executive Officer, CEO you will oversee your money, time and resources (nutrition, sleep, etc).

Your personal journey will be a constant balancing act between day-to-day operations and big-picture decision-making.



As the CEO your primary task is to research, listen, learn, and apply what is offered.

Ask yourself, "What would your board members suggest?" And start incorporating their daily habits, values, and principles into your life. Be careful of the influencer, they are wild cards and they can nudge their way on the board whether it be positive or negative influences.

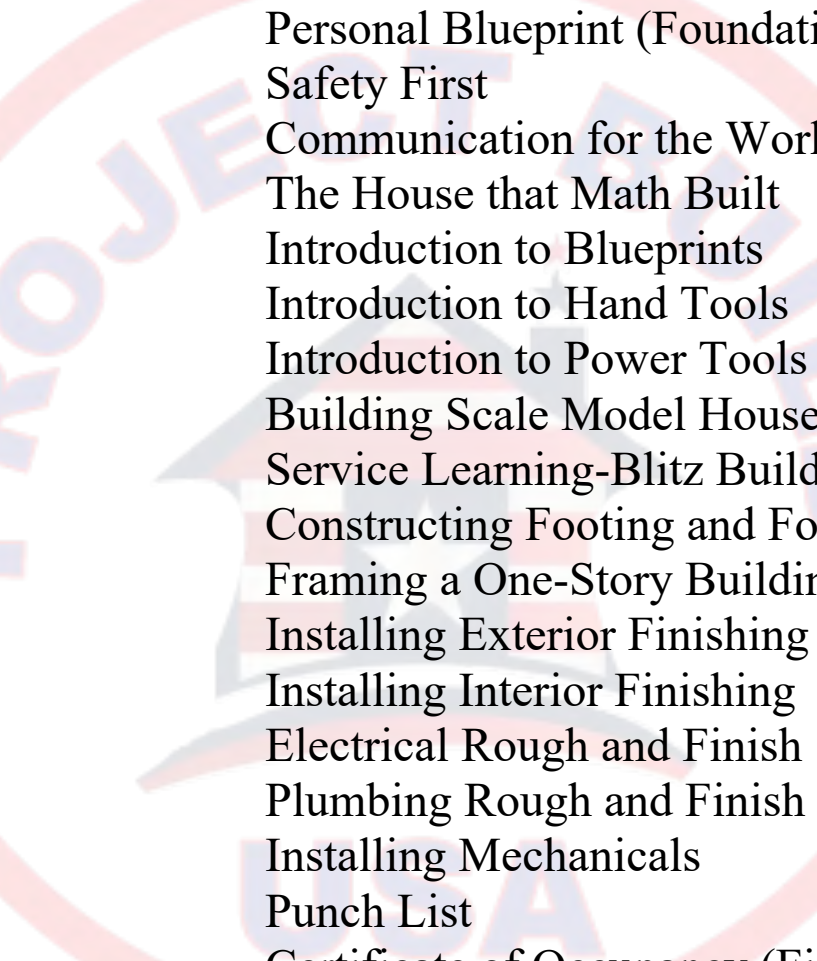
**"Example is not the main thing in Influencing others, it is the only thing."**

**Dr. Albert Schweitzer**



**Craftsmanship is the quality that something has when it is beautiful and has been very carefully made; it is doing what you love and doing it right.**

# 60/90/180 Day Project Build USA Curriculum



Module 1	Personal Blueprint (Foundation)
Module 2	Safety First
Module 3	Communication for the Workplace
Module 4	The House that Math Built
Module 5	Introduction to Blueprints
Module 6	Introduction to Hand Tools
Module 7	Introduction to Power Tools
Module 8	Building Scale Model Houses
Module 9	Service Learning-Blitz Building
Module 10	Constructing Footing and Foundation
Module 11	Framing a One-Story Building
Module 12	Installing Exterior Finishing
Module 13	Installing Interior Finishing
Module 14	Electrical Rough and Finish
Module 15	Plumbing Rough and Finish
Module 16	Installing Mechanicals
Module 17	Punch List
Module 18	Certificate of Occupancy (Finish)

# CAREER QUEST EXPLORATION



## Career Quest Assignment:

For this assignment, students will choose three careers that interest them and research the pros and cons of each. At least one of the careers they choose to research the individual student and or team will develop a project.

The first page of your Career Exploration Project will be a letter to the instructor, re-flecting upon why you chose the three careers and which among them, they will chose to develop a project and possibly pursue as a career in the future.

Sources for your student projects can be found in the PB USA Library and Online. Some useful sources are the Occupational Outlook Handbook and the Vocational Biographies. Use the PB USA Library and Internet to locate, appropriate sources to use for your project. These sources will provide students with most of the information they need for their research.

Upon completion of your research, project and culminating portfolio, you will create a presentation to share with the class and others. You are to include a synopsis of the career, the education needed, the job skills needed, the work environment and the main attraction to the project they developed. The project should be informative and give them specific insight to the type of career this would be over the long term.



# Architecture and Construction

---

## Project Management Sample:

### 1 Define the Project's Scope

This is the “what’s involved?” in a project. In this example, it may designing a house for a disabled vet.



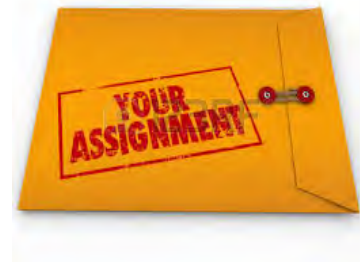
### 2 Establish a Schedule

This would be the timeframe of the project. When will you assign the project, when should the students start the project, and when should they have it completed? The students could also include milestones for a first rough draft and a final draft.



### 3 Assign Your Resources

These are simply the people involved in the project. In this case, the resources would be teachers, students and maybe even parents if they are involved in the review process.



### 4 Budget (Assess Cost)

This details what would be involved in terms of assets the students (or you) may need to acquire. Will the student need to purchase reference books? Additional equipment? Additional supplies? For ex. Learning as they build, students follow the process of constructing a scale model of a real world Project Build House or Habitat for Humanity House, which includes framing material, doors and windows and roofing material. Students will also find plenty of highly useful mathematical information—such as the kinds, sizes, and grades of lumber available—as well as fascinating histories and facts about significant building structures.



# Architecture and Construction

## Project Management Sample:

### 5 Rate Quality

While this constraint is a bit more subjective, quality would consist not only of what you determine to be the standards by which you grade the project, but also a checklist (rubric) that the student will generate to ensure he or she will turn in a high-quality product or project, such as:



- Do I have a Driving Challenge/Question?
- Is my project connected to the standards?
- Is my project on grade level?
- Is my presentation neat, impactful and easy to understand?

### 6 Risk Factors

What are the risk factors for this project? For a student, it can be anything from competing priorities in getting the project done, to a possible tendency to procrastinate. Risks are any “future” potential problem that may interfere with getting the project done on time, done on schedule and done well -- the basic triad of concerns for every project manager (teacher)!



## Review



**It is important to note that project management is also key to ensuring success with 3D learning initiatives and project-based learning initiatives in your classroom.**

**By integrating ViziTech USA Project Management's core standards and principles, you can dramatically increase the success rate of your students, no matter what stage or phase they may currently be in.**

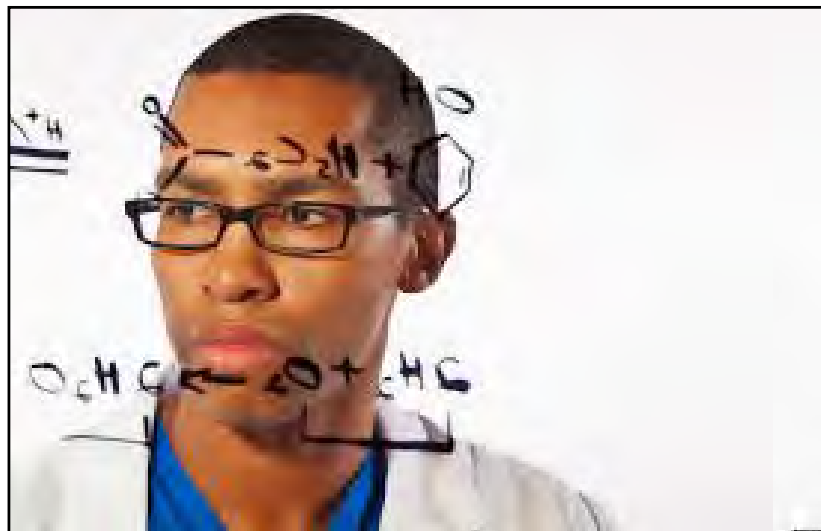
**Our components are portable and can easily be transported to and from the classroom/lab for specific student teaching applications.**



Community is a group of people who, regardless of their diversity, have been able to accept and transcend their differences, enabling them to communicate effectively and openly and to work together toward goals identified as being for their common good.



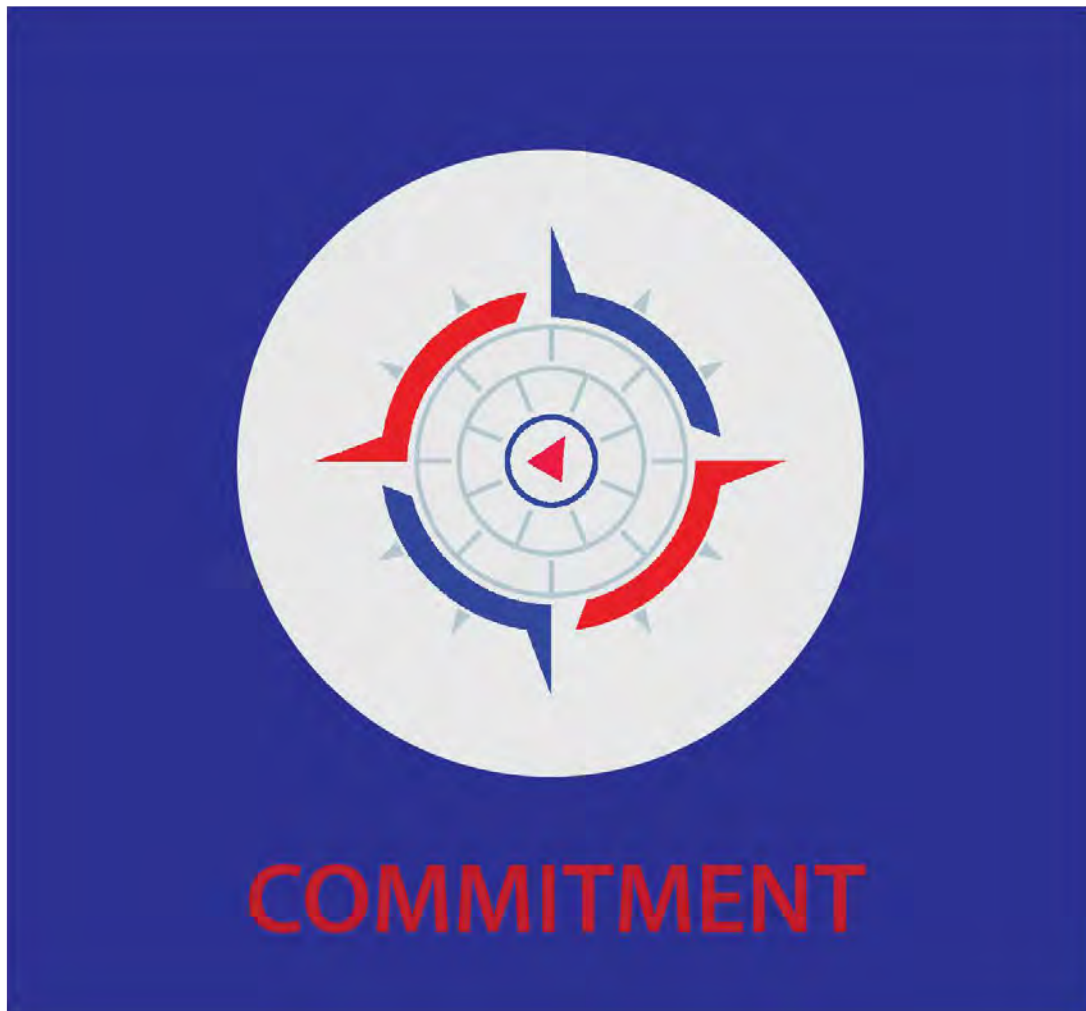
**Project Build USA Service Learning Challenge** is intended to strengthen students' sense of community awareness, allow for real world problem solving, while developing character and leadership skills.



The Service Learning Challenge is the deliberate connection of Service Learning to your team's hands-on project or product. Students' will be challenged and engaged in deliberating, planning, implementing, and reflecting on the integration of their project to solve a real world issues related to one of the follow categories:

### **Service Learning Challenges**

- \_\_\_\_\_ New Construction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Playground for Kids
- \_\_\_\_\_ Project Re Store
- \_\_\_\_\_ Renovation and Remolding
- \_\_\_\_\_ Smoke Detector Project
- \_\_\_\_\_ Urban Development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walking Trail Project
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weatherization Project



Commitment involves dedicating yourself to something, like a person or a cause. Commitment is one of the most important factors affecting success. Individuals who want to achieve their full potential need high levels of commitment.



## **Personal Commitment**

We want you to develop personal convictions that are special to you; that support your morality and integrity.

Continue to develop as a leader who can be respected and trusted in your personal network, school and community.

**Once you have commitment, you need the discipline and hard work to get you there.**

**Haile Gebrselassie**

The Commitment Cornerstone Challenge, your final challenge, brings you back full circle.

A major part of this finish process requires you to reach back, ultimately taking on the role of sharing the knowledge that you have gained with others in your community.

Upon completion of this final cornerstone challenge you will receive the Commitment Cornerstone of Honor.

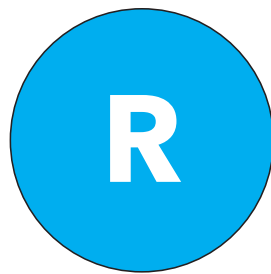
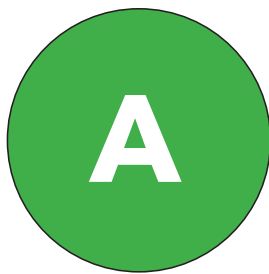
**If you make the unconditional commitment to reach your most important goals, if the strength of your decision is sufficient, you will find the way and the power to achieve your goals.**

**Robert Conklin**

**COMMITMENT CORNERSTONE**

# SMART Goals Matrix 1

Goal setting is the foundation for personal success. Smart goals are a great way to set and achieve your personal goals.



## **Specific**

When setting goals, it's important to be specific about what you want to achieve.

## **Measurable**

Make sure your goals are measurable, this tells you when a goal or action is complete and helps you track progress.

## **Actionable**

Take action on a regular schedule to attain your goals.

## **Realistic**

Your goals need to be realistic, relevant and consistent with your life plan helping you to be all you can be.

## **Timely**

Your goals should include a timeline.  
"I will complete this step by month/day/year."

The S.M.A.R.T. goals matrix is an effective tool to help you reach your targets.

# SMART Goals Matrix 4

List 3 personal goals you would like to accomplish this year:

**GOAL  
1**

**GOAL 1:**

**OBJECTIVE:**

**ACTION STRATEGIES:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**GOAL  
2**

**GOAL 2:**

**OBJECTIVE:**

**ACTION STRATEGIES:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**GOAL  
3**

**GOAL 3:**

**OBJECTIVE:**

**ACTION STRATEGIES:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

# Time Management



**Properly balance your time between planning time, performance time, and play time.**

**Planning time prepares you for success. That's the time you use to organize and prepare, so that you can achieve the right balance between work and play.**

**Performance time is the time you spend learning and earning. Playtime is the time you spend letting go and having fun. This also helps you to manage stress.**

**Look at the things that cause you stress and see if you can replace them with activities that relieve stress.**

**Time = Life,  
Therefore, waste your  
time and waste your life,  
or master your time and  
master your life.**

**Alan Lakein**



# **Certificate of Completion**

## **Awarded to:**

### **John Doe**

**For successfully completing 3600 hours in the Project Build USA  
Master Builder/Mentor Program in Residential Building Construction**

---

**Dr. Robert L. Kirton, Project Build Director  
SC Licensed Residential Builder  
Master Class I Instructor**

**Date: May 2, 2023**

Resources/References:

[Dictionary of Architecture and Construction- E-book by Cyril M. Harris](#)

Call Number: NA31 .H32 2006 ebk

ISBN: 0071589015

Publication Date: 2006

Updated and expanded, this Fourth Edition of the most trusted reference in architecture offers the most comprehensive coverage of architectural and construction terms available. Prepared by a renowned architectural editor in association with expert contributors and incorporating the work of many standards groups, the book presents clear, concise definitions of terms in nearly 80 working areas.

[Architectural Graphic Standards for Residential Construction by American Institute of Architects Staff; Dennis J. Hall \(Editor\); Nina M. Giglio](#)

Call Number: TH2031 .A84254 2010

ISBN: 0470395834

Publication Date: 2010

This resource keeps your construction knowledge current and up to standard. This edition was expertly redesigned to include new material on current technology specific to residential projects for anyone designing, constructing, or modifying a residence.

[High School Students' Views on Who Influences Their Thinking about Education and Careers](#)

NCES Number: 2018088 Release Date: 1/23/18

This Statistics in Brief report uses data from the 2012 follow-up of the High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 to examine who public high school students view as their main influence when considering education after high school and careers.

[The Education and Work Plans of Public High School Students](#)

NCES Number: 2017005 Release Date: 5/10/17

This Data Point looks at public high school students' education and work plans during and after school.

Afterschool Alliance: [Afterschool for All. \(2019\).](#)

Making a difference in America's communities by improving academic achievement, This resource helps you navigate the growing body of evidence demonstrating the student-supporting and community-building impacts of afterschool and summer learning programs.

[How to Teach Character Education by David H. Elkind and Freddy Sweet Ph.D.](#)

They tell us that we need to engage our kids in activities that make them think critically about moral and ethical questions, inspire them to become committed to moral and ethical actions, and give them ample opportunities to practice moral and ethical behavior.