



## CHARACTER COUNTS! IN SCHOOLS: GETTING STARTED

1. Preview Introductory Power Point at [CharacterCountsInIowa.org](http://CharacterCountsInIowa.org). Consider use of powerpoint with entire staff, certified and non-certified
2. Establish Building CC! Team to organize, lead and model implementation
3. Consider Staff Development Options:
  - Option A: One or two day in-service at your school or organization
  - Option B: Send a team of five or fewer to a two day “open enrollment” in-service
4. Implementation Strategies
  - Allow time to formulate implementation plans
  - K-8 Strategies could include:
    - Identify and focus on one Pillar each month
    - Establish a “Wall of Caring (or Respect, Fairness, etc)”
    - Write students’ names on the “Wall” as you see them demonstrating this Pillar
    - Invite the Youth Training Core to your school for peer-to-peer instruction on the Six Pillars of Character.
  - High School Strategies could include:
    - Use of Advisor/Advisory periods to discuss character
  - Establish Student Leadership Teams
  - Include “Pillar Language” in discipline policies and procedures
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5. All staff should teach, enforce (positively as well as delivering consequences), advocate, and model Pillars
6. Make Pillars visible in the building and in classrooms
7. Plan a kick-off assembly-Include Student Leadership Team in planning
8. Include CC! information in parent, building and classroom newsletters
9. Identify Pillar themes in books used in guided reading groups Discuss content in the context of Pillar themes
10. Consider use of “Pillar Language” in other content areas

Feel free to contact the CHARACTER COUNTS! in Iowa team at 515-271-1910 for additional information and/or support during your implementation journey.