


# Diving into EL Education's Character Framework

*I hear colleagues sometimes say “We don’t have time for that SEL stuff.” But what I think they miss is that if you don’t get at the heart of a child, they’re not going to learn.*

**Dr. Diamond (Jack) Ford, Principal, Hollis Innovation Academy, Atlanta, GA**



### Expanded View of Student Achievement

For over 25 years, EL Education has been bringing to life a three-dimensional vision of student achievement.

In addition to strong test scores, our students:

- » Achieve **Mastery of Knowledge and Skills**
- » Develop **Character**
- » Create **High-Quality Work**

EL Education combines challenging work with the joy of discovery, pride in mastery, and meaningful application of learning. *Building all three dimensions of student achievement is a single enterprise, interwoven throughout the environment of a school and the learning experiences of students.*



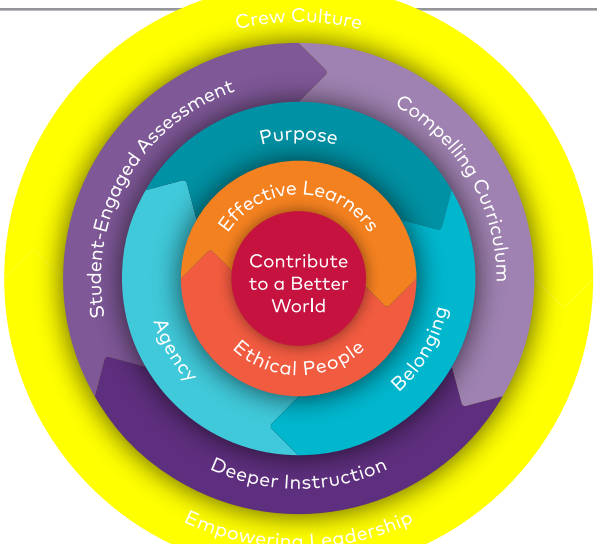
### Character Framework

---

#### Why Character?

Character has a profound impact on students’ learning—both their ability to learn and their interest in learning. We now have decades of research demonstrating that social and emotional learning as well as character habits are deeply intertwined with academic development.

If the purpose of education is to create good human beings with strong academic, social and emotional skills, who will have fulfilling and productive lives and contribute to our democratic society, then building character is a key ingredient.



## Character Framework Layers

The layers of the Character Framework are not separate: each one builds on the layer below. Student character reflects adult character; purposeful learning experiences develop character over time; school culture provides the environment where character can develop and flourish. In EL Education, students build character by doing challenging, meaningful work and reflecting on successes and failures.

