

DON'T BE INTIMIDATED BY DATA

Finding, organizing, and using data effectively is key to a strong school climate initiative, such as CHARACTER COUNTS!, and is crucial to completing a successful grant application. Below are some examples of data you can use and how it fits with CC! or grant application.

Data Sources	For Your Character-Development Initiative	For Your Grant Applications
Discipline Referrals, Suspensions, and Expulsions	Illustrate the need for character-development in your school. Break data down into violation categories. Align them with the Six Pillar values. This will help tackle the problem and show what will work best in each situation.	Find comparison data. Are there any increases over the years? Can you analyze it using similar data from comparable schools? Use the most recent data and compare with resesarch into school discipline.
Dropout and Attendance Rates	Demonstrate a lack of school engagement and analyze it to find the root of the problem. Tackle it using the Six Pillars of Character.	Find comparison data to support your need. Identify causes of your dropouts, ways to address them, and data needed to assess the viability of the intervention.
School Climate	Survey all stakeholders to give a broader view of your climate and to increase buy-in. Do this annually to assess implementation efforts.	School climate data can give you access to many grants. Use tools that are effective in measuring what you want to.
Extracurricular Activities	If your students participate in extracurricular activities, use data to measure their engagement. In sports, analyze their fair play and teamwork. Nest your character-development objectives into extra-curricular programs too.	A postive correlation exists between time spent in extracurricular activities and self-esteem. Find other correlation studies and use them to present your case.

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Professional Development and Training	Adults should attend initial trainings to learn how to integrate character and to develop better character themselves. Monitor progress among graduates and collect data on adult behaviors too.	Track how often adults participate in professional development events and how effectively their leadership aligns with school values. Find comparison data and use this in grant applications.