

# Grades 6-8

## Personal and Social Development

### Respect Yourself and Others

- 1 Understand Self and Others [DSS.6-8.1](#)
  - 1 Discuss how thoughts, feelings, attitudes, values, and beliefs affect decision making and behavior. [DSS.6-8.1.1](#)
  - 2 Practice using listening skills to identify and understand the feelings and perspectives of others. [DSS.6-8.1.2](#)
  - 3 Use mistakes as opportunities to grow personally and socially, not to define self or others as a failure. [DSS.6-8.1.3](#)
  - 4 Recognize signs of anger and practice safe, respectful anger management skills. [DSS.6-8.1.4](#)
- 2 Maintain Positive Relationships [DSS.6-8.2](#)
  - 1 Develop positive relationships with peers and adults. [DSS.6-8.2.1](#)
  - 2 Acquire and use effective conflict resolution techniques. [DSS.6-8.2.2](#)
  - 3 Demonstrate self-control by minimizing words and actions that hurt self and others. [DSS.6-8.2.3](#)
  - 4 Model safe and effective ways to address peer pressure. [DSS.6-8.2.4](#)
  - 5 Describe bullying and use effective practices to address it. [DSS.6-8.2.5](#)
- 3 Exhibit Respectful Behavior [DSS.6-8.3](#)
  - 1 Identify and respect personal boundaries and privacy needs of all self and others. [DSS.6-8.3.1](#)
  - 2 Respect all individuals as unique and worthy regardless of differences. [DSS.6-8.3.2](#)
  - 3 use social and communication skills, dispositions, and character traits appropriate for various situations and audiences. [DSS.6-8.3.3](#)

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## Goal Setting and Attainment

- 4 Decision Making and Personal Responsibility [DSS.6-8.4](#)
  - 1 Make decisions, set goals and take necessary actions to attain goals. [DSS.6-8.4.1](#)
  - 2 Analyze situations by comparing and contrasting various behaviors and choices in relation to possible short- and long-term consequences and discuss how to improve choices. [DSS.6-8.4.2](#)
  - 3 Describe how peer pressure influences personal decisions; create and follow a plan to minimize negative peer pressure. [DSS.6-8.4.3](#)
  - 4 Describe how peer pressure influences personal decisions; create and follow a plan to minimize negative peer pressure. [DSS.6-8.4.4](#)
  - 5 Establish action steps to attain school, home, and civic goals. [DSS.6-8.4.5](#)
  - 6 Apply problem solving techniques to identify and address challenges to goal attainment. [DSS.6-8.4.6](#)
  - 7 Describe how current decisions have long term consequences and ways to achieve desired outcomes. [DSS.6-8.4.7](#)

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## Safety and Survival Skills

- 5 Protect Emotional and Physical Safety [DSS.6-8.5](#)
    - 1 Identify and apply strategies to reduce stress and protect safety, differentiating between situations requiring self-help, peer support, adult or professional help. [DSS.6-8.5.1](#)
    - 2 Develop and implement plans for situations such as teasing, bullying, harassment, threats, intimidation, and other violent acts or dangerous situations. [DSS.6-8.5.2](#)
    - 3 Identify and utilize communication skills and strategies to participate in only safe and healthy activities. [DSS.6-8.5.3](#)
    - 4 Know emergency contact information; identify and utilize school and community resources to protect personal safety. [DSS.6-8.5.4](#)
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## Academic and Learning Development

### Self-Directed Learning

- 6 Develop Academic Motivation [DSS.6-8.6](#)
  - 1 Identify and develop competence in areas of interest. [DSS.6-8.6.1](#)
  - 2 Apply multiple intelligence Principles to identify personal strengths and improve school focus. [DSS.6-8.6.2](#)
  - 3 Understand the relationship between school success, academic achievement and future career success. [DSS.6-8.6.3](#)
- 7 Develop Learning Skills [DSS.6-8.7](#)
  - 1 Improve executive function skills (e.g., effort, paying attention, flexibility, memory, self-control, communication, focus and perseverance). [DSS.6-8.7.1](#)
  - 2 Identify personal learning style(s) and establish habits that enhance personalized learning. [DSS.6-8.7.2](#)
  - 3 Work collaboratively in groups or independently, as appropriate. [DSS.6-8.7.3](#)
- 8 Achieve School Success [DSS.6-8.8](#)
  - 1 Exhibit personal responsibility. [DSS.6-8.8.1](#)
  - 2 Evaluate the impact of positive and negative choices on school success and implement a plan to improve outcomes. [DSS.6-8.8.2](#)
  - 3 Apply goal setting techniques to develop self-direction and improve school performance. [DSS.6-8.8.3](#)
  - 4 Identify and utilize school and community resources and support services when needed. [DSS.6-8.8.4](#)

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## Post-Secondary Preparation

- 9 Prepare for Post-Secondary Success [DSS.6-8.9](#)
    - 1 Identify how performance and course selections in middle school impacts high school course readiness and post-secondary choices. [DSS.6-8.9.1](#)
    - 2 Explore requirements for success in a variety of post-secondary options and for securing scholarships. [DSS.6-8.9.2](#)
    - 3 Analyze how personal choices negatively or positively influence high school and post-secondary options and preparedness for success. [DSS.6-8.9.3](#)
  - 10 Plan to Achieve Goals [DSS.6-8.10](#)
    - 1 Use a variety of assessments and inventories to identify skills, interest and aptitudes for post-secondary planning. [DSS.6-8.10.1](#)
    - 2 Use personal data and goals to establish challenging academic, personal and post-secondary plans. [DSS.6-8.10.2](#)
    - 3 Seek co-curricular and community experiences to enhance the school experience and post-secondary readiness. [DSS.6-8.10.3](#)
    - 4 Analyze assets and barriers to academic goal attainment and utilize school and community resources to overcome barriers and strengthen assets. [DSS.6-8.10.4](#)
    - 5 Explore eligibility requirements and funding opportunities for various postsecondary options. [DSS.6-8.10.5](#)
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## Career Development and Life Planning

### Career Exploration and Planning

- 11 Develop Career Awareness **DSS.6-8.11**
    - 1 Explore how personal abilities, skills, interest, and values relate to workplace. **DSS.6-8.11.1**
    - 2 Use a variety of resources and methods to explore career options. **DSS.6-8.11.2**
    - 3 Examine specific job requirements and opportunities for progressions of career levels from entry level to advanced leadership and develop a personal career growth vision. **DSS.6-8.11.3**
    - 4 Explore career options in relation to selecting a career cluster. **DSS.6-8.11.4**
  - 12 Develop Career and Life Plan **DSS.6-8.12**
    - 1 Describe lifestyle dreams and possible career options and evaluate the likelihood of attaining goals. **DSS.6-8.12.1**
    - 2 Begin to develop a possible career/life plan that explores educational credentials, skills and career progressions. **DSS.6-8.12.2**
  - 13 Careers and Life Success **DSS.6-8.13**
    - 1 Explore how identified career choices impact lifestyles and opportunities. **DSS.6-8.13.1**
    - 2 Practice expected workplace dispositions and behaviors. **DSS.6-8.13.2**
    - 3 Explore the need for lifelong learning as situations and responsibilities change, requiring new knowledge and skills. **DSS.6-8.13.3**
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## Global Citizenship

### Intercultural Perspectives

- 14 Acquire a Diverse and Knowledgeable World View **DSS.6-8.14**
  - 1 Compare and contrast aspects of various communities and describe how these contribute to each individual's perspective and world view. **DSS.6-8.14.1**
  - 2 Analyze factors that contribute to different social and world views (e.g., ethnicity, race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, family composition, lifestyle, religion, economic status and nationality). **DSS.6-8.14.2**
- 15 Interact Respectfully with Diverse Cultures **DSS.6-8.15**
  - 1 Apply an inter-culturally sensitive perspective to social interactions. **DSS.6-8.15.1**
  - 2 Describe global issues and events from perspectives of various individuals and groups to understand viewpoints other than one's own. **DSS.6-8.15.2**
  - 3 Investigate methods for enhancing language proficiency and the ability to communicate effectively across cultural and linguistic boundaries. **DSS.6-8.15.3**
  - 4 Describe how stereotyping and prejudices impact interpersonal relationships. **DSS.6-8.15.4**

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## Democratic Principles

### 16 Promote Social Justice [DSS.6-8.16](#)

- 1 Adhere to classroom and school rules and community laws to protect individual rights and property. [DSS.6-8.16.1](#)
- 2 Identify and discuss issues of social justice. [DSS.6-8.16.2](#)
- 3 Investigate programs for advocacy and promotion of social justice. [DSS.6-8.16.3](#)

### 17 Assume Responsible Leadership [DSS.6-8.17](#)

- 1 Identify the qualities of successful leaders. [DSS.6-8.17.1](#)
- 2 Exhibit leadership to improve school and the local community. [DSS.6-8.17.2](#)

### 18 Practice Financial Responsibility [DSS.6-8.18](#)

- 1 Evaluate financial choices based on one's own needs, wants and values and how they guide spending, saving, credit and implications for the family budget. [DSS.6-8.18.1](#)
- 2 Create a personal budget with income from incidental funds (birthday and other gifts, allowance, chores, entrepreneurial endeavors, part-time jobs, etc.) and track spending and payments. [DSS.6-8.18.2](#)
- 3 Discuss concepts of consumer protection (e.g., laws, identify theft and predatory scams). [DSS.6-8.18.3](#)
- 4 Discuss concepts related to financial institutions (e.g., laws, banks, credit unions and check cashing services). [DSS.6-8.18.4](#)