



Smart Character Choices is a character education program that is embedded into the fabric of schools. It is based in Internal Control Psychology; the belief that behavior is guided by one's personal actions and thoughts not by fate, luck, or other external circumstances. The program philosophy and framework directly contrasts the traditional coercive behavior management used in schools that turn staff and students into adversaries. Teacher modeling, challenging academic curriculum, instructional processes and ongoing assessment of learning are used to support high student achievement. Additionally, non-coercive management of the school/classroom environments and positive relationships with parents/guardians provides support for student character development.

Early American public schools embedded the teaching of character in almost every lesson and book. The purpose of these early school books was of course to teach literacy and knowledge but they also had a broader purpose of creating a national character, instilling children with a moral code appropriate for the citizens of the nation. Universal education for all citizens is a cornerstone for our democracy and building character in students, helping them to learn how to make personal responsible choices in their lives, is an essential piece of American Democracy.

*We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." --Aristotle*