



Evaluating Character Education:

Looking Beyond Academic Success

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Evaluating Six Dimensions

- ***Dimension 1: Student, Faculty, Staff, and Parent Character Development***
- ***Dimension 2: Community Engagement***
- ***Dimension 3: School Climate***
- ***Dimension 4: Professional Development***
- ***Dimension 5: School Leadership***
- ***Dimension 6: Type/Quality/Duration of Character Education***



Dimension 1: Student, Faculty, Staff, and Parent Character Development

- Evaluates the cognitive, attitudinal, and behavioral perceptions related to character development.
- Most commonly measured as respect, responsibility, caring, self-discipline, and other character related constructs.

Dimension 2: Community Engagement

- According to Vygotsky & Piaget, teachers and school administrators most likely cannot achieve miracles in character development without the help of the parents and interpersonal interactions within the greater community.





Dimension 3: School Climate

- The emotional attachment of a student to his or her school is critical to character education
- School climate has a major impact on this emotional attachment
- This dimension measures constructs such as: Liking of School, School Connectedness, Sense of School Community, Safety, and Loneliness.



School Climate Assessment

- Model offers promise for students to develop an emotional attachment to his/her school. 1 2 3 4 5
- Model offers promise for students to develop an emotional attachment to his/her class or classes. 1 2 3 4 5
- Model provides opportunities to have positive interactions with their administrator and teachers. 1 2 3 4 5
- There is promise for students perceiving their school to be a caring community through the implementation of this model. 1 2 3 4 5

Dimension 4: Professional Development

- Professional development (PD) is paramount to insuring that all participants integrate Character Education
- More thorough understanding is obtained through ongoing instruction and coaching



Dimension 5: School Leadership

- Principal and teacher leadership are critical to the success of creating a culture of character
- The principal shares a vision of how character education can be integrated into the curriculum so teachers and parents share the same vision and are enlisted to create that culture
- This dimension captures the breadth and the impact of leadership





Dimension 6: Type/Quality/Duration of Character Education

- As character education progresses, more questions arise as to what is or is not character education
- Is it the integration of a unique instructional model that inspires moral development or the implementation of a marketed program that touts character?

A Starting Point for Evaluation

- Collect School Climate Information for All Participating Stakeholders (students, teachers, parents, administrators, community members etc...)
- Are students thinking and acting differently in regard to certain character traits that have been emphasized?
 - How do stakeholders perceive the school?



Evaluation Resources

- Character Education Partnerships
www.character.org
- Character in Action Survey (CIAS)
Matthew Davidson
- Continuous Improvement in
Character Survey (CICS) Doug
Grove www.ciassociates.net



What evidence proves students are developing good character?

- Cognitive Examples
- Attitudinal Examples
- Behavioral Examples



Cognitive Examples

- Do students know and understand how to behave?
- Do students know and understand school guidelines on how to behave?
- Do students understand classroom guidelines on how to behave?



Attitudinal Examples

- What are student's attitudes?
- What do students think?
- What do students believe?



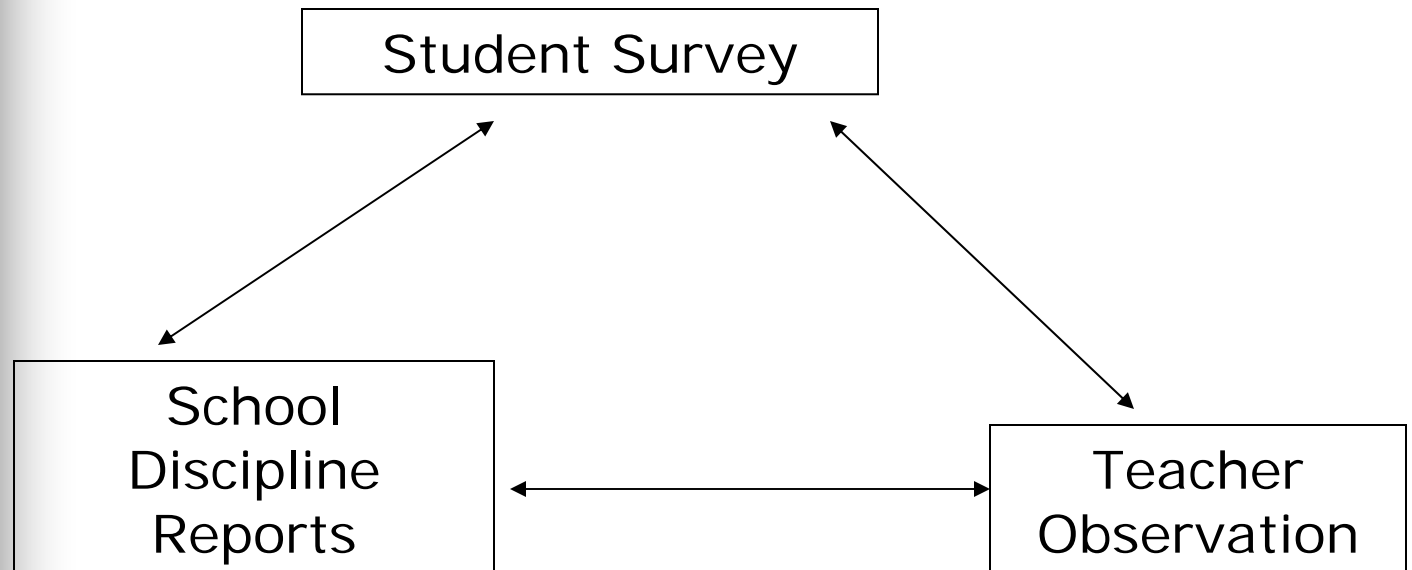


Behavioral Examples

- What do students report doing?
- What do teachers report students doing?
- What do the school discipline reports show?

Student Effects

- Triangulation of Student Effects





The Opportunity

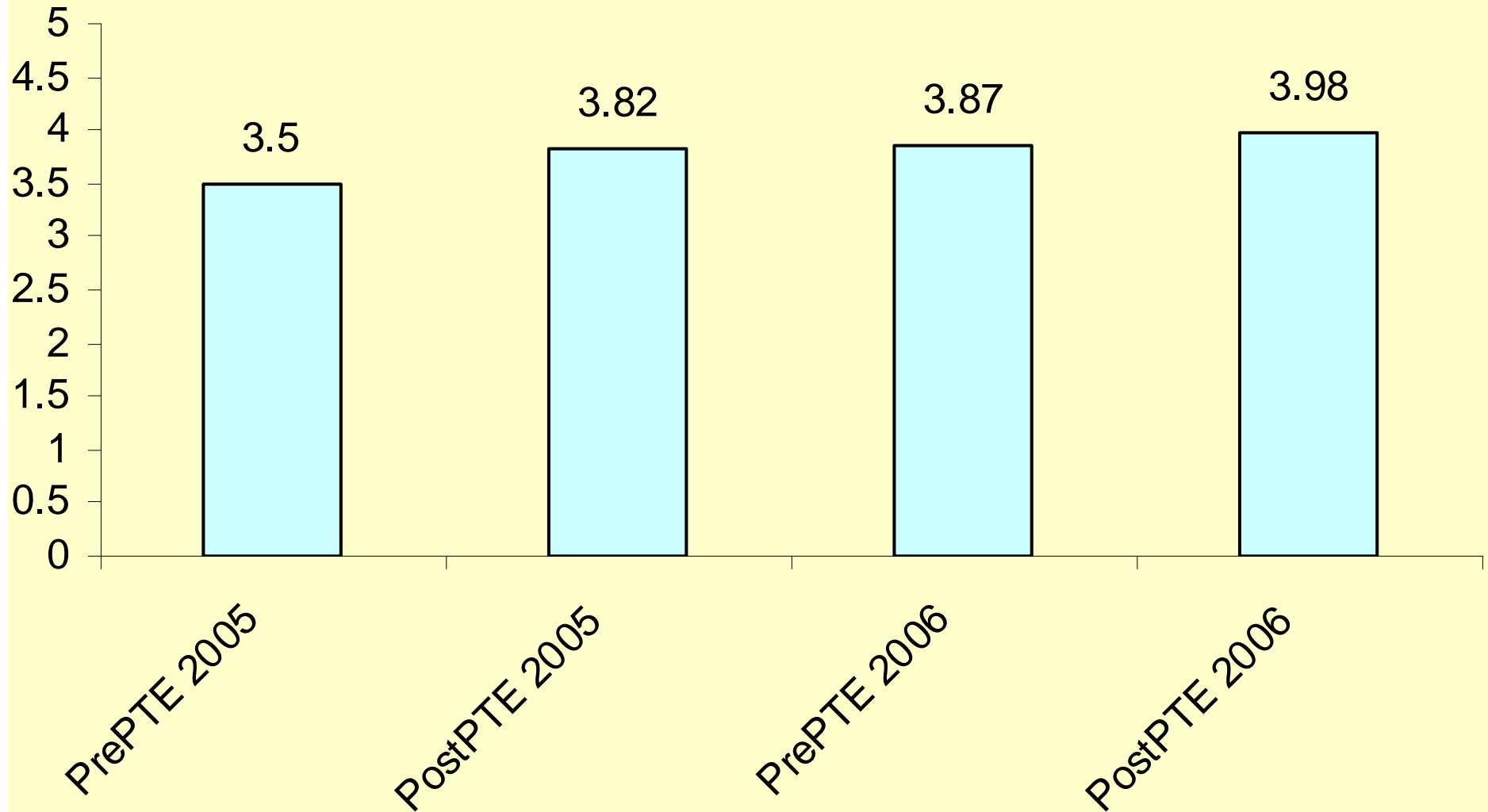
- What evidence will you collect that shows students are developing good character?
- What evidence will you collect that shows the school climate is improving?
- What evidence will you collect that shows other dimensions are being affected?

Teacher Efficacy Toward Character Education

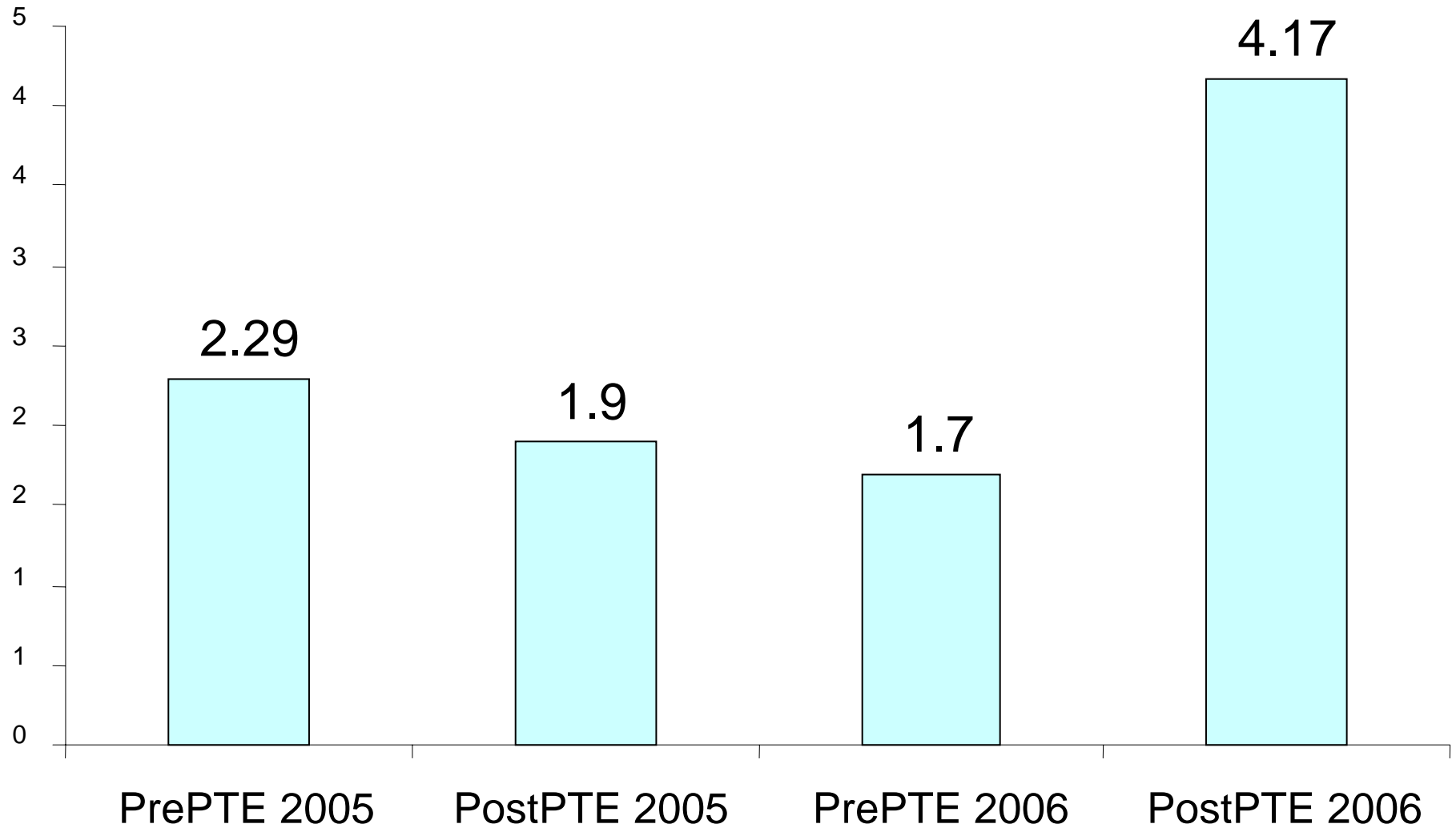
- Do you believe you can affect a student's character?
- What will you do to affect students character?
- Is more caught than taught?
- Institute for Character Education
- Professional Development Approach



I am usually comfortable discussing issues of right and wrong with my students.



I know how to use strategies that might lead to positive change in students' character.





Reflection

- Please think quietly for a minute about the following questions:
 - What did you learn?
 - What do you need learn more about?



Must Reads for Character Educators

- Character Matters by Thomas Lickona
- Developing Character in Students by Phil Vincent
- Parenting for the Good by Marvin Berkowitz
- Character Development in the Family by Thomas Lickona