



What is the Charter for Compassion?

The Charter for Compassion is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but, more importantly, compassionate action to the center of our lives. Compassion is the principled determination to put ourselves in the shoes of the other. As we practice compassion, we grow stronger in caring for others, ourselves, and the Earth. One of the most urgent tasks of our generation is to build a global community where people of all ages, races, nations and ideologies can live together in peace, health, and towards building a better future. In our globalized world, everybody has become our neighbor, and the Golden Rule has become an urgent necessity.

What place does compassion have in education?

Cultivating compassion in educational settings, and creating the kind of culture where it is a norm of student and staff behavior, may seem at first a noble ideal: a nice-to-have, something to be undertaken only when all other priorities are met. Yet we now have the evidence to show that a school's ability to foster real learning, indeed to fulfill its fundamental purpose, depends on its ability to do just that. More and more schools and educational organizations/groups

are acting on this evidence and creating compassion-filled learning environments. Students and adults alike thrive when their social and emotional needs are met, when they feel a sense of belonging, when they feel their voices are welcomed and heard. Choosing to uphold the principles of compassion is central to a school's ability to create a caring and inclusive culture and climate, to nurture a strong moral identity among those who walk through its doors, and to invite deep participation and learning. What's more, compassionate action is foundational to effective collaboration, and to advancing the common good—attributes that, in today's increasingly connected world—are central to success. A compassionate school begins with the adults on campus walking their talk and modeling compassion to all.

How can we get involved?

There are a number of ways you can get involved with the work of the Charter:

[Read, sign and act on the Charter for Compassionate Schools.](#) There is great need for a Charter for Compassionate Schools that translates the principle of compassion to the uniqueness of the school world and acts as a rallying cry and unifying vision for schools and educational organizations across the globe.

[Join our network.](#) If you are a principal, teacher, youth group, educational organization, early childhood professional, consultant, writer, musician or artist, or other specialist who works in education join with our other 150 partners in forming an accessible network of compassionate education specialists. Each partner has a page on our website that links back to your own site.

[Contact the Charter for Compassion to become a volunteer.](#) Visit our website to learn more about the Charter and our city initiatives, and partner sectors.

[Contribute to the Education Blog.](#) Share what you are doing in your teaching and learning.

[Get our free mobile Compassion App.](#) Enter and access a world of compassion and record your thoughts and actions for caring for the others, yourself, and the Earth.

[Engage in the Compassion Relays and Games.](#) The Relays are year-round and are a great way to engage everyone in compassion and increase momentum for the Games in September.

www.charterforcompassion.org