Campus Connections Youth Mentoring Program:
“Finding your Ethical Compass”
Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative (DFEI) Curriculum
Mentee Workbook


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Campus Connections Youth Mentoring Program: “Finding your Ethical Compass”  
Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative (DFEI) Curriculum

What to Expect

Mentees:
*Active Lecture and Activity: “Orientation to Your Ethical Compass” [50 minutes] by Dr. Cortny Stark, Dr. Diane Stutey, and Kim Severn*
Facilitator walks through the “Orientation to Your Ethical Compass” material in the “Campus Connections Youth Mentoring Program: “Finding your Ethical Compass” DFEI Curriculum Workbook” with youth mentees and their mentors during the first night of Campus Connections. The facilitator then supports the mentees and mentors as they work through the provided activity (also in the workbook).

*Weekly Log: “The Tough Decisions Tracker” by Dr. Cortny Stark*
Youth mentees are provided the following instructions, and copies of the “Tough Decisions Tracker” (available in their workbook). Mentors are present when these instructions are provided, and are encouraged to support the youth in remembering to complete the tracker (completing an entry every week; if the mentee does not complete an entry during the week, they will complete an entry with their mentor during Campus Connections).

   Every day we are encounter situations that make us think twice about what we should do. During Campus Connections, you’ll have the opportunity to learn different ways of dealing with tough decisions. The purpose of this “Tough Decisions Tracker” is to help you and your mentor keep track of times when you have to make a tough decision. When you are confronted with a tough situation, complete as many parts of an entry (listed below) as possible. Some days you may only be able to complete #1 on the tracker, and that’s okay! You’ll review this tracker with your mentor during your next Campus Connections meeting.
Timeline for the “Finding Your Ethical Compass” Curriculum

**Week: 1-2**
Mentor Active Lecture & Activity: “Campus Connections Finding Your Ethical Compass: Introduction to Principal-based Ethics”

**Week 3-4**
Mentee Active Lecture and Activity: “Orientation to Your Ethical Compass”

**Weeks 4-15**
Mentees Complete Weekly “Tough Decisions Tracker”

**Week 5-6**
DFEI LAP Lesson 1

**Week 7-8**
DFEI LAP Lesson 2

**Week 9-10**
DFEI LAP Lesson 3

**Week 11-12**
DFEI LAP Lesson 4
What are ethical principles?
- Ethical principles are the “basic [values/rules] that govern behavior and help people know right from wrong” (MBA Research and Curriculum Center, 2021)

Ethical principles include (Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, 2021):
- Integrity: Act with honesty in all situations
- Trust: Build trust in all relationships
- Accountability: Accept responsibility for all decisions
- Transparency: Maintain open and truthful communications
- Fairness: Engage in fair competition and create equitable and just relationships
- Respect: Honor the rights, freedoms, views, and property of others
- Rule of law: Comply with the spirit and intent of laws and regulations
- Viability: Create long-term value for all relevant stakeholders

What are “codes of ethics”?
- A code of ethics is described as… “Just as the law binds the members of an entire community and enforces the shared values of that community, --codes of ethics are intended to promote the ideals of a single professional discipline” (Israel, 2002, p. 15)
- All professions have a code of ethics that helps to guide the decisions that professionals make. For example, counselors have a code of ethics that all counselors follow; when they run into a tough decision, they literally pull out a copy of their counseling code of ethics, and read until they find something that helps them make a good decision.
- An individual can also have a code of ethics, or list of ethical principles that are most important to them. They can reference this code of ethics whenever they encounter a tough situation, that way they know they are making the best choice possible.

Why are ethical principles important?
- They can help guide our decision making when we run into a tough situation or an “ethical dilemma”. Ethical principles are like the directions on a compass, they help us determine which direction we should take.

What is an “ethical dilemma”?
- An ethical dilemma is a situation where it’s difficult to determine which choice is the right one. An ethical dilemma often occurs when our values – or the things that are important to us – are at odds with ours, or someone else’s behavior, and we must decide how to respond.

Figure 1. Ethical Dilemma
Activity #1: Your Personal Code of Ethics
When you think about making a tough decision, which ethical principles are most important to YOU?

My Personal Code of Ethics

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Activity #2 - Case Study: Reini and the School Bus Bully
How do we use ethical principles to make good decisions? It’s a process!

Figure 2: Herlihy and Corey’s (2014) Ethical Decision-Making Model
Now that you know what ethical principles are, and have identified your own “code of ethics”, let’s walk through the ethical decision making process together. Listed below is a story or “case study” about Reini, a young girl who saw someone bullied on the school bus. After reading Reini’s story, answer each of the questions listed below. These questions will help us work together to use an ethical decision making model to decide what Reini should do.

**Reini and the School Bus Bully**
Reini is a 12 year old girl who rides the school bus everyday to get to and from school. One afternoon while riding the bus on her way home from school, Reini over hears someone on the bus telling Kenny – a kid who sits just a couple of rows behind her – that he is “fat” and “like the leprechaun from lucky charms”. Another student then yells “yeah, and the music he listens to sucks, Kenny is so gay”. Reini then notices that Kenny is crying, has put on head phones, and is trying to hide his face. Reini notices that her stomach hurts, and she has a funny feeling in her chest; she knows that what is happening to Kenny is not okay, and thinks that she has to do something.

If you were in Reini’s shoes, what would you do? Use the questions below to determine what Reini should do:

1. Today Reini was confronted with a difficult situation, here’s what happened:

2. She knew this was a problem when…

3. Some of the things she might think about doing to deal with this situation:
Option 1:

Option 2:

Option 3:

4. Reini should do the following (pick the best option):

5. Reini will know she made the best choice possible because…

6. The next time something like this happens, Reini should try to…

References

Tough Decisions Tracker

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___________________________________________________________________________

Option 1:

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___________________________________________________________________________

4. I ended up deciding to do the following:

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5. I know I made the best choice possible because…

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