

**CRETE**

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**K-12 Counseling  
Resource  
Recommendation**

# Introduction and Purpose



Purpose of the presentation:

- Provide an overview of the process and criteria used for selecting curricular resources. Please feel free to ask questions.

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# The Team

## Team

- Lindsey Knutson, ES Counselor
- Jessica McDowell, IS Counselor
- Makenna Bird, MS Counselor
- Jay Quinn, 8/9 Counselor
- John Kucera, HS Counselor
- Dawn Draeger, HS Counselor

## Credentials

- 6 educators with 3-30 years experience in education, totaling over 100 years of experience
- Degrees in Elementary, Early Childhood, Psychology, Health/Physical Education, Biology, Natural Sciences
- 5.5 hold MAs in School Counseling
- 2 MAs in Curriculum Instruction, 1 in Educational Leadership
- Additional endorsements: Social Sciences, PE Education, Coaching, ELL, MS Math



# Curriculum Process



Overview what has been completed as part of the curriculum process

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# CRETE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# Crete Public Schools Curriculum Process

A “guaranteed” curriculum means we ensure the same content is taught in every classroom teaching the same grade or course. We ensure all students have an opportunity to learn the critical content identified. Viable means we are able to teach it to the level of understanding in the time available to do so.

## Pre-Stage Set-Up



Form Committee

Plan Timeline

Define Responsibilities

Gather Research

## Stage 1 - (Year 1) Analysis



Internal Review

External Research

Standards Unpacking

Establish the Vision

## Stage 2 - (Year 2) Development



Course Offerings

Instructional Materials  
Review

Selection and Approval  
of Instructional  
Materials

Curriculum  
Development

## Stage 3 - (Year 3) Implementation



Professional  
Development

Committee Meetings

Implementation Checks

Revisions

Data Tracking

## Stage 4 (Yrs. 4-7) Effectiveness Monitoring



Fidelity Checks

Analyze Data

New Hire Materials  
Training



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# Content Standards

- **ASCA Standards for Counselors and Students** - (Academic Development, Career Development, Personal/Social Development)
  - **CASEL Framework - Social Emotional Learning** (Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Responsible Decision Making, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness)
  - **MTSS-B** (Multi-tiered Systems of Support)
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# Selection Criteria & Review Process



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# What We Looked At:

- **Second Step (current programming)**
  - Lacking - outdated, not engaging for students/staff
- **Open Parachute**
  - Lacking - documentary based - hit or miss with engagement
- **Move This World**
  - Lacking - high focus on movement based strategies - would be hard for staff buy in, more suited for younger students
- **Character Strong**
  - K-12 program (we currently use curriculum for K-5)



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# What We Recommend:

- **Character Strong**

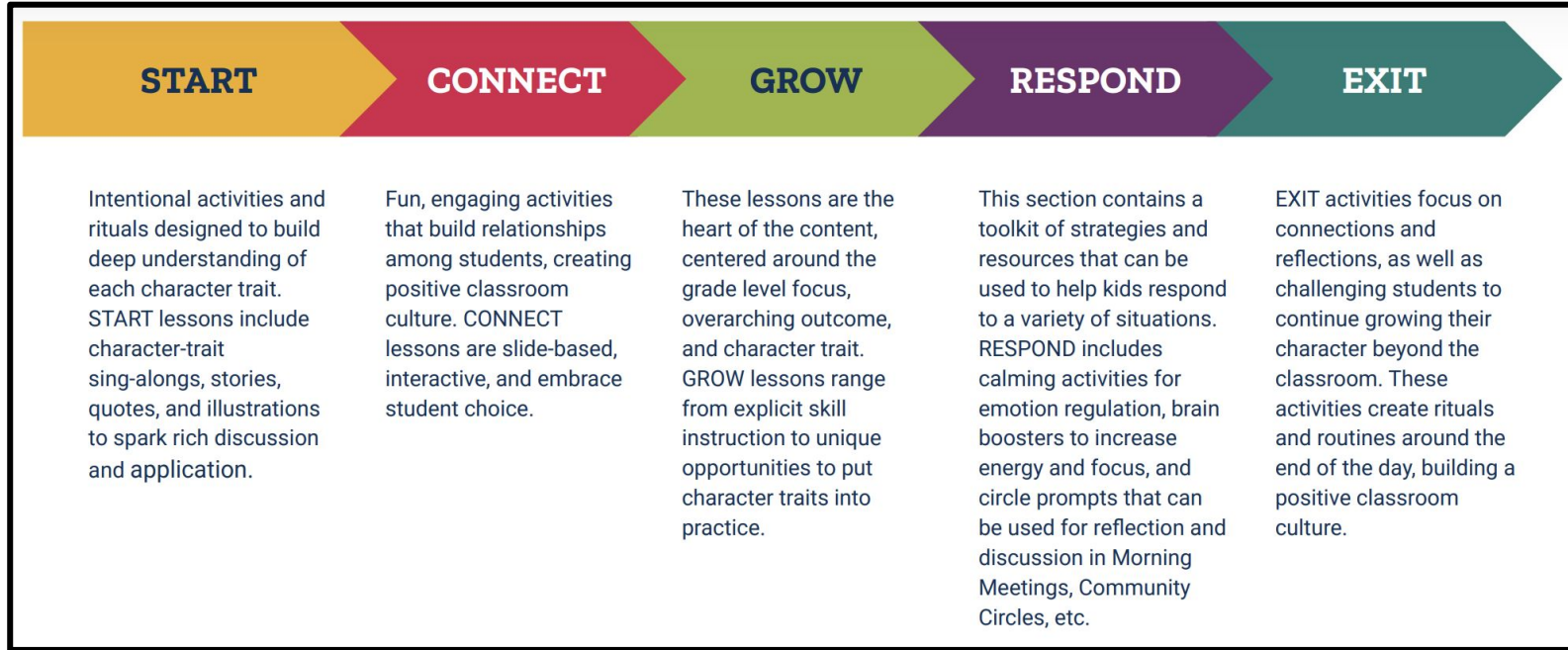
- True MTSS system
  - Tier II and III resources - small group/individual skills, same common language throughout
- LoHi Toolkit - (library of resources for educators, administrators, student and families)
- Engagement with students - observed in site visit
- Online platform - continually being updated
- Intentional, easy-to-use lesson design (low prep)
- Evidence-based
  - Get the key lesson but still flexible with add-ons & extra engagement/developmentally appropriate
- Appropriate and engaging across all grade levels



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# What We Recommend:

- **Character Strong**



# 6th Grade Example

## What We Recommend:

**Abstract:** The 35-session Scope and Sequence provides comprehensive coverage of the core components of CharacterStrong's curriculum. *Additional context for each session is outlined on the following pages.*

S00: Bullying 101

**Foundational Sessions:**

S01: Welcome

S02: Building Connections

S03: Developing Community Agreements

S04: From Bystander to Advocate

S05: Understanding the CharacterDare Process

S06: Defining Community

S07: Taking on Tests

S08: Staying Organized

S09: Time Management

S10: Introducing Values

S11: Applying Values Online

S12: Identifying Our Values

S13: Introducing Listening Skills

S14: Listening Practice

S15: Introducing Perspective-Taking

S16: Understanding Others' Perspectives

S17: Understanding the Impact of Emotions

S18: Naming Emotions

S19: Introducing Conflict Resolution

S20: Practicing Conflict Resolution

S21: Introduction to Friendships

S22: Establishing Friendships

S23: Listening with Respect

S24: Barriers to Listening

S25: Practicing Perspective-Taking

S26: Common Ground Through Perspective-Taking

S27: Emotions and Decision-Making

S28: Regulating Emotions

S29: Maintaining Friendships

S30: Navigating Friendship Change

S31: Repairing Friendships After Conflict

S32: Practicing Apologizing

S33: Nice vs. Kind

S34: Remembering This Year

S35: Final Reflections



# Cost and Sustainability



- **Cost**
- **Timeframe**
- **Training and support**

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# What is the cost?

- **Character Strong**
  - **\$104,644.40**
  - **7 year online resources, Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 for K-8**
  - **Professional Development for Implementation**



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■ **Total = \$104,644.40**

# Implementation Plan



- Timeline and logistics for implementing

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# What is the plan?

- *July 13-17, 2026 - Curriculum Writing Meetings*
- *August Professional Development with implementation training for all K-8 staff*
- *MTSS implementation support*
- *Curriculum check-ins*
- *Summer 2027 for modifications*



# Monitoring and Evaluation



- **Monitoring effectiveness over time**

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# What will we monitor?

- *Implementation feedback from teachers*
- *Students engagement and feedback*
- *MTSS-B Data (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3)*



