

# RESPONSIBILITY

## Teacher Resource

### WHAT IS RESPONSIBILITY?

Owning my actions, using good judgment and practicing self-control.

### BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.68.R.2.1** Discuss how character is shaped by attitudes, decisions and actions.
- ✓ **HE.68.R.2.3** Describe the importance of following school and community laws and rules.
- ✓ **HE.68.R.2.9** Identify healthy responses to negative peer pressure.

### PURPOSE

- ▶ These interactive activities will help your students implement strategies to demonstrate **responsibility** by understanding how character is shaped and how to respond to negative peer pressure. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing **responsibility**.



### Suggested Introduction:

“Today, we are going to explore the characteristic of **responsibility** and how to respond to negative peer pressure. **Responsibility** is using good judgment, self-control and owning one’s actions. It’s about staying true to your values and doing what you believe is right, even when others choose to go down a different path. **Responsibility** helps you stand up for yourself and protect those around you.”



### Activities to Build Responsibility:

#### 1 Build Resiliency for High School Responsibilities

Lead students in a discussion on **responsibilities** that they may have when starting high school. Some examples include learning how to drive, documenting volunteer hours for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program or getting a part-time job. Provide some time for students to write down anticipated **responsibilities** in high school, discuss with a partner and align with the other Resiliency Characteristics (e.g., grit when the new **responsibility** is challenging, mentorship to ask for help if needed) that will help to manage these **responsibilities** successfully.

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### Activities to Build Responsibility (Continued):

#### 2 Responsibility of Citizenship

Divide students into small groups and give each group a scenario card that describes a real-life situation involving school or community laws or citizenship duties (e.g., a student skipping school, someone littering in a park, a citizen deciding whether to vote).

**Each group will:**

- Identify the rule or law being broken or followed.
- Explain why it is important.
- Determine whether it is an obligation or a **responsibility**.
- Discuss how this impacts the school, community or society.

#### 3 Public Service Announcement

Have students create a short public service announcement (PSA) about the importance of **responsibility**. This can be a video, poster or speech that educates their peers. Students can focus on themes, such as character, peer pressure, and following school or community rules. Have students present their PSAs to the class.



### Suggested Wrap-Up:

“Today, we have explored new ways we can use **responsibility** when faced with difficult situations. Remember, even if your friends disagree, it’s okay to say no and make your own choices. When you choose to be **responsible**, you not only make better choices for yourself, but you also set an example for others to follow.”