

## **Character Education – Second Step information for elementary schools**

### **Content to be delivered:**

There are 4 Units delivered at each grade level:

1. *Skills for Learning* (includes Learning to Listen, Focusing Attention, Being Assertive, and Staying on Task for example) **Character Trait - Respect & Responsibility**
2. *Empathy* (Feelings, Identifying Anger, Caring and Helping) **Character Trait - Kindness**
3. *Emotion Management* (Managing Frustrations, Calming Down Strong Feelings, and Managing Disappointment, and Handling Waiting) **Character Trait - Perseverance**
4. *Problem Solving* (includes Solving Problems, Inviting to Play, Fair Ways to Play, and Handling Name-Calling) **Character Trait – Honesty & Respect**

**Grade levels involved:** K4 through grade 2 at each elementary school for the 2012 – 2013 school year. Grades 3 – 5 added for 2013 – 2014 school year.

**Instructional Plan:** Each class in K4, K5, Grade 1, and 2 would have Second Step instructional time built into their daily schedule. The school counselor and the classroom would alternate teaching the lesson. The school’s counselor and classroom teacher would team to deliver the main lesson for the week. The daily “Following Through” activity would be delivered by the classroom teacher at an opportune time. Time needed for the “Following Through” activities and discussions requires approximately 5 - 10 minutes daily (this could take place at any time during the school day even snack time or nutrition break). As teachers become familiar with the daily “Following Through” materials, it will be evident that they can be worked into the teachable moments that often arise each day.

**Support and Stability:** SDSM offered a 2012 summer training module to its staff. There was an elementary staff inservice that occurred in August. Second Step offers online training, too. Information included in the program overview is : Kg scope and sequence, research review, lesson format, following through activities, family component, and summative assessment information.

### **Online Resources:**

[www.secondstep.org](http://www.secondstep.org) has resources for lessons, samples, videos, and materials