

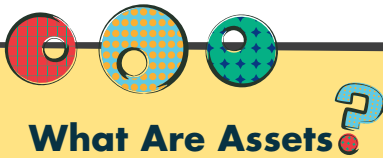


Ideas for Educators

42 Ready-to-Use Newsletters for School Success

13. NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES

Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.



What Are Assets?

Assets are 40 values, experiences, and qualities that help kids succeed. **Neighborhood boundaries** is one of six boundaries-and-expectations assets.

47% of youth surveyed have this asset in their lives.*

*Based on Search Institute surveys of 148,189 6th- to 12th-grade youth throughout the United States in 2003.

- Reach out to the surrounding neighborhood, families, and businesses.
- Ask local officials and community leaders to talk to your class.
- Find out about student behavior in the community.
- Find ways to address negative behaviors and reward positive behaviors together with the community.

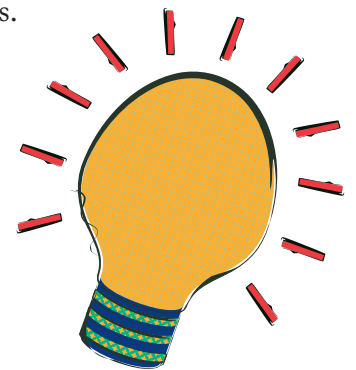
The Power of Neighborhoods

This asset needs outreach and some good discussions beyond the four walls of your own classroom. But, it's also an exciting opportunity to cement your school's image as a positive one in the larger community.

You can think about your role as participatory, rather than directive. Engage in conversations with kids and other staff about behavior in the larger world. Be willing to spend some extra time if you're asked to talk to community leaders—or better yet, seek out discussions with community leaders yourself. Examine your expectations for student behavior in school and share ideas about how to extend those expectations beyond school bounds.

Most importantly, remember that this asset stresses *monitoring* young people's behavior. This does not mean the school is *responsible for* all student behavior, nor should it be expected to be the sole disciplinarian in rewarding or punishing students' actions.

Neighbors, police, community groups, and schools all have a stake in how young people behave. When a student is consistently surrounded by clear, logical, and appropriate expectations, their behavior will reflect what the community wants.



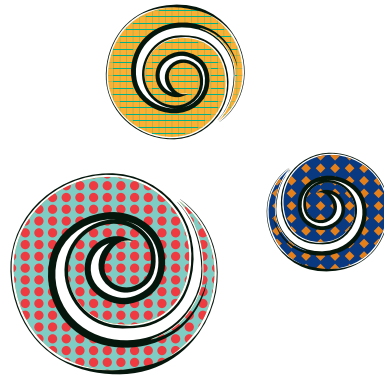
Getting to Know the Neighbors

Your colleagues are your neighbors, literally and figuratively. You work together, look after children together, and even keep your "homes" and "yards"

tidy with each other. Because of this, it's important that the people you work with have shared expectations about their behavior and attitudes.

Reflect on these questions about neighborhood boundaries in your school:

- ⦿ Do the teachers in your vicinity share the same expectations of students, especially in shared spaces?
- ⦿ Do your colleagues treat their space and yours respectfully?
- ⦿ Do your colleagues nearby offer support and encouragement often?
- ⦿ Can you and your neighbors rely on each other, especially in times of need?



The people you share workspace with have a tremendous impact on your overall experience. It's important to look over the fence, say hello, and have a good conversation.