Search Institute’s Framework of Developmental Assets (Ages 12 to 18)

This publication presents research on developmental assets, which are positive factors in young people, families, communities, schools, and other settings that have been found to be important in promoting young people's healthy development. Further details on developmental assets are available at www.search-institute.org/assets.

### External Assets

1. **Family support**—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. **Positive family communication**—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. **Other adult relationships**—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. **Caring neighborhood**—Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. **Caring school climate**—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. **Parent involvement in schooling**—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.

### Internal Assets

**COMMITMENT TO LEARNING**

1. **Achievement motivation**—Young person is motivated to do well in school.
2. **School engagement**—Young person is actively engaged in learning.
3. **Homework**—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
4. **Bonding to school**—Young person cares about her or his school.
5. **Reading for pleasure**—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.

**POSITIVE VALUES**

6. **Caring**—Young person places high value on helping other people.
7. **Equality and social justice**—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
8. **Integrity**—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
9. **Honesty**—Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
10. **Responsibility**—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
11. **Restraint**—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

**SOCIAL COMPETENCIES**

12. **Planning and decision making**—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
13. **Interpersonal competence**—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
14. **Cultural competence**—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
15. **Resistance skills**—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
16. **Peaceful conflict resolution**—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.

**POSITIVE IDENTITY**

17. **Personal power**—Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
18. **Self-esteem**—Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
19. **Sense of purpose**—Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
20. **Positive view of personal future**—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.