

Excerpt from *Journal of Research in Character*

*Smart & Good High Schools: Integrating Excellence and Ethics for Success in School, Work, and Beyond* by Thomas Lickona and Matthew Davidson

*Smart & Good High Schools (SGHS)* represents the first significant comprehensive effort to address the role that high schools should play in the character development of adolescent youth . . . The *Smart and Good High School* report is a brilliant blend of research and practical insights. It is best seen as a respectful invitation to begin the process of realizing the full potential of high schools. SGHS has been written with near “perfect pitch.” It is an impressive blend of conceptual clarity and organization, real-world best practices and the best scholarship and wisdom on the subject. It is an accessible document and one that can be read over and over with new insights sure to follow each reading. Teachers and schools will likely make this report their own, and the report will advance practice differently in different classrooms and different schools. Not everyone will find everything in the report of value but no one, I am guessing, will find nothing of value. This report is an invitation to consider, reflect, innovate, and implement and presents a significant opportunity to advance the practice of character education in America’s high schools. As the discussion is enjoined around the country, new insights and practices will undoubtedly emerge. Tom Lickona and Matt Davidson have started the dialogue on how to advance the practice of character education in America’s high schools in brilliant fashion.

Reviewed by:

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For full review, see [\*Journal of Research in Character Education\*](#), 4(1 & 2), 2006, pp. 83-91.