

## 高中生作弊比率 10年來首降 Survey finds less cheating in high schools

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美國高中學生的道德感似乎已逐漸提升，根據約瑟夫森品德研究所(Josephson Institute of Ethics)的最新調查顯示，高中生承認作弊、說謊或偷竊的比率，在 2012 年出現十年來的首次下降。

今日美國報報導，雖然比率下降的原因尚不清楚，但這項針對 2 萬 3000 名高中生的調查結果，已為各校的主管帶來一線希望。

約瑟夫森品德研究所創辦人 and 總裁約瑟夫森(Michael Josephson)表示，該調查的發現「是情況可能好轉的相當正面跡象」；他並樂觀表示，「這是下降趨勢的開始」。

這項每隔兩年一次的調查指出，承認在過去一年曾經作弊的學生，已由 2010 年的 59%降至 2012 年的 51%。而在過去一年中，曾嚴重說謊以欺騙教師的學生，亦由 2010 年的 61%降至 2012 年的 55%。

另外，承認曾從商店偷東西的學生，則由 2010 年的 27%，在 2012 年降至 20%。

這類數據下降的其中原因，可能與更重視學生品性有關。約瑟夫森說：「學生行為出現如此大幅度的改變，顯示家長管教的重大改變，以及學校更積極介入有關學生誠實和品性的議題。」

該調查也發現，男學生比女學生更可能不誠實。有 45%男生相信「人一定會說謊」，而女生僅有 28%。

資料來源：(1) 2012年11月27日 世界日報 (The World Journal)  
(2) 2012年11月27日 華盛頓郵報 (Washington Post)

## Survey finds less cheating in high schools

Are American students making the grade when it comes to ethics?

A new survey from the Josephson Institute of Ethics finds that the portion of high school students who admit to cheating, lying or stealing dropped in 2012 for the first time in a decade.

The reasons aren't totally known, but the results of the poll of 23,000 high school students give leaders of the Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization hope.

The survey is "a pretty good sign that things may be turning around," said Michael Josephson, the founder and president of the Josephson Institute. "I'm quite optimistic this is the beginning of a downward trend."

Among the highlights from the survey, which is done every two years:

- Students who said they had cheated on an exam in the past year plunged from 59 percent in 2010 to 51 percent in 2012.

- The number of students who said they lied to a teacher in the past year about something significant fell from 61 percent in 2010 to 55 percent in 2012.

- In 2010, 27 percent of pupils said they had stolen from a store in the past year. In 2012, 20 percent said they did so.

One reason for the decline may be more attention to character.

"Changes in children's behavior of this magnitude suggest a major shift in parenting and school involvement in issues of honesty and character," Josephson said in a statement.

Brian Jacob, a professor of education policy at the University of Michigan, said providing students with more information is one way to help curb cheating in schools. For instance, Jacob, who has looked at plagiarism in college, said research shows that you can help students understand, through tools such as an online tutorial, what constitutes plagiarism and strategies to avoid it.

Though the Josephson Institute survey suggested overall improvement, it found that boys are more likely than girls to engage in dishonest conduct: 45 percent of boys said they believe “a person has to lie and cheat at least occasionally in order to succeed,” compared with 28 percent of girls.

Boys have a tendency toward aggressiveness and competitiveness, said David Walsh, a developmental psychologist in Minneapolis. There has been research around the most prominent male hormone testosterone, which is associated with competitiveness, but the influence of parents, teachers and peer groups are also important, he added.

“We want our sons to be able to channel that energy in a positive direction,” said Walsh, the author of the books “Smart Parenting, Smarter Kids” and “Why Do They Act That Way?”

“Some boys end up being leaders and being outstanding.”