

Improving School Culture and Climate By Cultivating Character

Taking PACE to the Next Level; June 20, 2013

Laura Smith & Dr. Debbie Tully

Purpose of the National and State Schools of Character Awards

The purpose of the awards program is to identify and honor exemplars in character education and facilitate their leadership in serving as models for other educators.



Suzy Ward, Missouri SSOC Coordinator

“Missouri had the most 2011 SSOC and NSOC. This synergy is a result of dedicated educators who understand the importance of character education and the willingness to share best practices within their district and with others. Schools of character network and become models for others. They provide consultation, collaborations, workshops, field trips, and inspiration. Working together, they positively impact students, staff, and communities. Character education is changing the world—one heart at a time.”

HEAD

Academic
Success

Performance
Character

Social &
Emotional
Intelligence

HEART

Character

You need to **Work** at it
...To **Earn** it

Exercise your muscle

21st Century Skills

*Character is the
one test you can't
cram for.*

HANDS

Service

Action

Community

Service

BEHAVIOR

when no one
is watching

FEET

Leadership

Be
Courageous



Believe in the
Power of One

Be the kind of person that when your feet hit the floor each morning the devil says~~ "Oh Crap, She's up!"

CEP's Schools of Character program offers a path to school improvement by providing a proven framework, professional feedback, and models of excellence.



The State and National Schools of Character program is not a competition—but rather an opportunity to receive feedback as well as recognition for growth and excellence in the area of character development. Applicants repeatedly tell us of the tremendous benefits of the schools of character process

Washington State Coordinators

- Leadership Innovations Team
 - Heather Knight – president,
- Whitworth University
 - Dr. Debbie Tully - School of Education,
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- OSPI
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 - Dave Colombini – Assistant Superintendent,

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Why Develop Schools of Character?

In schools of character:

- ▣ Bullying is rare
- ▣ Cheating and discipline problems decline
- ▣ Test scores, grades, and homework completion go up
- ▣ Attendance and graduation rates are high
- ▣ Dropout rates are low
- ▣ Achievement gaps are narrowed
- ▣ Teacher retention and satisfaction are high
- ▣ Parent satisfaction and engagement rates are high
- ▣ Student engagement and involvement is high

Sound too good to be true? It's not! Schools of character prove that when school communities come together for a common purpose, amazing things happen. Schools of character work—for kids and for communities.

*What Works in Character Education 2005,
Berkowitz & Bier*

Why Schools Apply:

“As we worked on the NSOC application, we realized the ‘winning’ was the process itself. Applying for the award afforded us the opportunity to appreciate our strengths and work on our challenges.”

~Nan Peterson, director of service learning, The Blake School

Laura Smith, Principal Hidden Creek Elementary School

In 2010, our elementary school decided to apply for the State Schools of Character Award. We are very proud of our efforts to build strong character and the capacity for citizenship and leadership in our students. Though unfamiliar with the application process, we thought this would be a great way to bring recognition to our school. As we worked through the elements of the application, and examined our practices through the lens of the 11 Principals of Character, we realized that we didn't care at all about the recognition anymore! The process itself allowed us to attain a clear picture of how we could grow as a School of Character and generated excitement around creating an even more positive school culture for our students and staff. This was a fantastic self-evaluation and learning experience for us.

There's that ...
and the "way cool" banners



Quick Guide: 11 Principles of Effective Character Education

Principle 11: Assessment
Where are we now? Where do we want to go? How well are we doing?

Evaluates character of school, staff, students.

Principles 1, 2, 3:

What is quality character ed?

Everyone agrees on values; it involves thinking, feeling & behaving; intentional & comprehensive.

Principles 4, 5, 6, 7:

What does a school with quality character ed look like?

A caring community that fosters service, meaningful academics, & develops self-motivation

Principles 8, 9, 10:

Who should be involved?

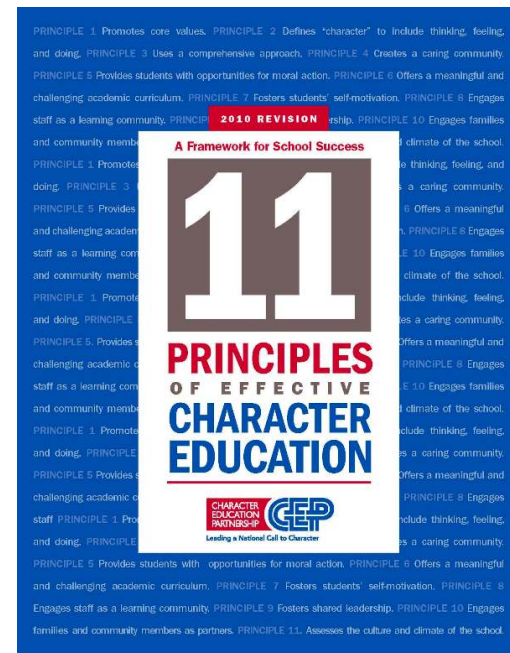
Everyone. Shared leadership of principal, staff, character ed team, students, parents and community.

CEP's *Eleven Principles*:

How are we doing?
Where do we go from here?

Assessment should guide the process!

Principle 11: **Assesses** the culture and climate of the school.



CEP's *Eleven Principles*:

What is quality character education?

Effective character education:

- Principle 1: **Promotes core values.**
- Principle 2: Defines “character” to include **thinking, feeling, and doing.**
- Principle 3: Uses a **comprehensive approach.**

CEP's *Eleven Principles*:

What does a school with quality character education look like?

- ▣ Principle 4: Creates a **caring community**.
- ▣ Principle 5: Provides students with **opportunities for moral action** (community service and service learning).
- ▣ Principle 6: Offers a meaningful and **challenging academic curriculum** (performance character).
- ▣ Principle 7: Fosters students' **self-motivation**.

CEP's *Eleven Principles*:

Who should be involved in character education?

- Principle 8: Engages the **staff** as an ethical learning community.
- Principle 9: Fosters **shared leadership**.
- Principle 10: Engages **families and community** members as partners.

Preparing to Apply

- 11 Principles Stakeholder Self-Assessment
- School Climate
- Student Impact
- Implementation of the 11 Principles
- Supporting Evidence

Go to CEP's website:

www.character.org/schools-of-character

Resources to help you on your journey.

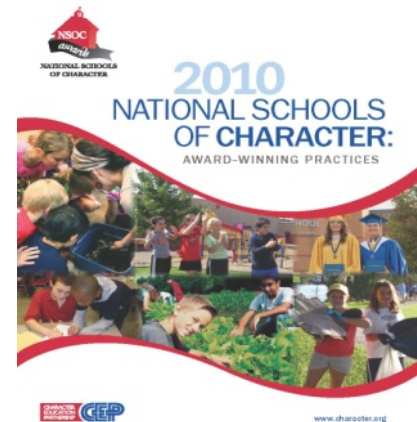
Learn from models of excellence @ www.character.org

[School profiles](#)

Find a national or state school of character [near](#) you.

[Annual book](#)

Read inspiring stories about the national schools of character.



Additional Resources:

[Video](#)

Watch a video of character in action at schools of character around the country

[Best practices](#)

Look for ideas for your classroom, school, or district by searching the **Promising Practices** exemplars.

Timelines

December: SSOC application due 12/1/13

January/February: State leadership team members will review applications and contact schools.

SSOCs will be forwarded to the NSOC competition

March: Submit Promising Practices (optional)

May: State Schools of Character are recognized at the PACE Awards Banquet

May: NSOC are posted to the CEP website

Leadership Team

Contact Information

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- Heather Knight:
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Betsy Stecker, Michigan SSOC Coordinator

“In my school visits this year, I was most inspired, actually, by a school that *didn't* win. What inspired me most was witnessing the students' engagement and ownership of what they were learning about character. The staff was receptive to the idea of creating a whole-school vision for character education, rather than using a hodgepodge of different 'for-purchase' programs, their current approach. They are on the cusp of true character education, and it's just as exciting to witness this growth as it is to congratulate a 'winner.'”

Take-aways!

Jot down three possible action items to share with your building team.