



Best Practices

The Promising Practices program recognizes individual best practices in character education,

from pre-school to graduation, and from Massachusetts to Mexico. Our website features a searchable database so you can find exciting programs that worked in classrooms like yours. Educators from around the world are invited to submit their practices online in early 2014.

See www.character.org/schools-of-character for more information about the State/National Schools of Character and the Promising Practices program.

Lesson Plans

If you are just getting started and looking for something ready to implement, our lesson plan database is there to help. Lesson plans from our National Schools of Character and other experienced character educators can give you some great ideas—fast and free of charge. Use these lessons—as well as the Promising Practices and other resources character.org provides—to inspire and guide you.

Our Mission

Providing the vision, leadership and resources for schools, families and communities to develop ethical citizens committed to building a just and caring world.

Beginning in August Apply for 2016!

On-line applications can be filed for State and National Schools of Character at www.character.org

The application window closes in
December 2015

Nothing to Buy!

NO New Curriculum to Implement!!

The *11 Principles of Effective Character Education* provides a free tool for evaluating and improving the culture of any school. For information please contact:

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MAPPING SUCCESS: Linking Smart and Good

2015 National Forum on
Character Education
Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA
October 16-17, 2015



A Path to School Improvement

- Students stay home every day out of fear of getting bullied at school.
- 65% of high school students admit to cheating.
- 30% of high school students admit to stealing.
- 50% of high school and 25% of middle school students say drugs are used or sold at their school.

Let Us Help You!

www.character.org

**Muskogee High School—NSOC 2011
Muskogee, OK**



"Character Education is Good Education"

Character.org aims to benefit society through school reform that addresses not only academics, but also moral, social, emotional, and ethical issues. Character.org has the tools, methods, and strategies to empower teachers, parents and community members to help schools achieve the important goals of character development.

What We Do

Character.org focuses on defining and encouraging effective practices and approaches to quality character education and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. We offer:

- ◆ [Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education](#), a tool for evaluating effective character education. Professional development for school teachers and administrators focusing on school-wide systemic change.
- ◆ [Annual conference](#) – the National Forum on Character Education. See www.character.org/conference for more information.
- ◆ A [school improvement process](#) for schools or districts through our National Schools of Character program.
- ◆ [Resources](#), including our annual publication, National Schools of Character: Award-Winning Practices.

The National School of Character program sponsored by Character.org in Washington DC has the potential to revolutionize school culture across our great nation. As former Governor of Oklahoma and current Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for Character.org, I heartily recommend that schools across the nation look seriously into implementing the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education, apply for Promising Practice recognition, and begin the process of becoming National Schools Of Character.

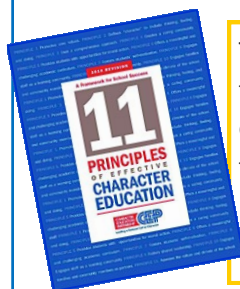
Frank Keating

Schools of Character: Proven Success

In schools of character, adults embrace their critical role as models. Teachers work together as professionals—and with parents and community members as partners—to positively shape the social, emotional, and character development of the young people entrusted to them each day. As a result, students in these schools feel safe, respected, and connected to those around them, allowing them to thrive academically and socially and be motivated to give back to their communities.

Results:

- 92% decrease in vandalism Hinsdale Central High, Hinsdale, IL.
- 95% drop in disciplinary referrals Jefferson Elementary School, Belleville, IL.
- 54% decrease in middle school behavioral infractions from School District of Jefferson, Jefferson, WI.
- 93% graduation rate (an increase from 84.5%) Lindbergh School District, St. Louis County, MO.
- 96% attendance record Bower Hill Elementary School, McMurray, PA.
- 80% decrease in disciplinary referrals - Wilton Manors Elementary, Wilton Manors, FL



The **11 Principles of Effective Character Education** are the cornerstone of our philosophy. Each principle outlines vital aspects of character education initiatives that should not be overlooked. These broad principles provide a map to guide you in your journey. Visit www.character.org for a **free** copy.



Carmel Elementary School — NSOC 2013
Woodstock, GA

11 Principles of Effective Character Education

1. Promotes core values.
2. Defines “character” to include thinking, feeling, and doing.
3. Uses a comprehensive approach.
4. Creates a caring community.
5. Provides students with opportunities for moral action.
6. Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum.
7. Fosters students’ self-motivation.
8. Engages staff as a learning community.
9. Fosters shared leadership.
10. Engages families and community members as partners.
11. Assess the culture and climate of the school.

Schools of Character Programs

Character.org has currently recognized 248 National Schools of Character, 18 National School Districts, and almost 2,000 Promising Practices in character development.

Join the Character Movement!!

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