

Character.org Designates 80 Schools 6 Districts as 2017 State Schools of Character

Washington, D.C. (January 27, 2017)—Today, Character.org, a national advocate and leader in character development designated 80 schools and 6 districts as State Schools of Character for 2017 with applications coming from 27 states.

Three international schools also applied for a School of Character designation, and their designation will be announced with National Schools of Character in mid-May. Since the inception of Character.org's School of Character program, more than 500 schools have been designated as a State School of Character, impacting more than two million students. *(Complete listing of the 2017 state and districts of character - found at bottom of this announcement)*

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates select schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development that has a true positive effect on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate. Schools and districts announced today will be forwarded to Character.org for consideration for national recognition as [National Schools of Character](#). Additionally, 19 schools applied for re-certification as National School of Character along with 12 former State Schools and/or Districts of Character reapplying for the national designation.

Doug Karr, President and CEO of Character.org explained, "We are excited to recognize these schools as exemplars that not only educate students in dynamic ways, but also prepare them to lead with integrity right where they are. Their stories prove how timely it is that we take this movement beyond schools into our own individual character growth to make even broader positive change."

"It is such a surprise and an honor for us to be the first Kentucky School of Character in five years. As a staff and school, we have worked so hard to educate our students to maximize the academic experience of our students while not neglecting the development of our young people's character. The process was very rigorous and rewarding, and it is an honor for our hard work to be validated," said Brandy Holley, principal of Mount Sterling Elementary School. To learn more about the schools chosen today and those in the midst of their 3-year designation as State Schools of Character, please visit Character.org's [website](#). Criteria for selection are based on Character.org's [11 Principles of Effective Character Education](#), which include providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

The 2017 National Schools of Character will be announced in mid-May 2017. Character.org will honor these schools and districts at the [24th National Forum on Character Education](#) to be held Oct.20-21, 2017 in Arlington, VA.

About Character.org: Founded in 1993, Character.org, is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. It works with schools and districts to inspire, educate and empower young people to be ethical and engaged citizens. It is comprised of education leaders who are dedicated to youth learning how to be both smart and good through the advancement of quality character development in all schools. The impact of this is seen through improved academic achievement, decline in behavioral problems such as truancy and school violence and an increase in an overall positive school climate. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the Schools of Character program and the National Forum.

About Character Education: Character education is an educational movement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive effort by schools, districts, communities and states to help students develop important core ethical (recognizing what's right) and performance (doing what's right) values such as caring, honesty, diligence, fairness, fortitude, responsibility, grit, creativity, critical thinking and respect for self and others.

2017 State Schools of Character

Arizona

Imagine Desert West
Imagine East Mesa
Imagine Prep Surprise

California

Wells Middle School

Colorado

Imagine Charter School at Firestone
Parker Core Knowledge Charter School

Connecticut

Breakthrough Magnet School

District of Columbia

Sheridan School

Florida

Imagine Land O Lakes
Imagine Schools Chancellor Campus
Ridgecrest Elementary School

Georgia

Liberty Elementary School

Idaho

Betty Kiefer Elementary

Illinois

Belleville Public Schools District #118
Freeburg Primary Center
St. Mary of the Angels School

Indiana

Christel House Academy, South

Kansas

McClure Elementary School

Kentucky

Mount Sterling Elementary

Maryland

Jacobsville Elementary School
Kent County High School
North Caroline High School
Piney Ridge Elementary School
Warren Elementary

Michigan

Ernest W. Seaholm High School
James R. Geisler Middle School

Missouri

Alma Schrader Elementary School
Carman Trails Elementary

Green Pines Elementary
Green Trails Elementary
Lindbergh Early Childhood Education
Parkway Northeast Middle School
Parkway School District
Parkway Southwest Middle School
Stanton Elementary
Wild Horse Elementary

New Jersey

A. Russell Knight Elementary School
Alexander Denbo Elementary School
Bret Harte Elementary School
Broad Street School
Burlington County Alternative School
Campbell Elementary School
Cherry Hill Public Schools
Cinnaminson Middle School
Essex County North 13th Street Tech High School
Frank J. Smith School
Harrison Elementary School
Helen A. Fort/ Marcus Newcomb Middle School
Howard L. Emmons Lower Elementary School
Jonas Salk Middle School
Mahala F. Atchison School
Merriam Avenue School
Morgan Elementary School
New Brunswick Middle School
New Providence School District
Paradise Knoll School
Somerset Intermediate School
Tinton Falls Middle School
Toms River High School East
Whitehouse Elementary School
Yardville School

New York

West Patent Elementary School

North Carolina

Erwin Montessori Elementary
Grimsley High School
James Benson Dudley High School
Oak View Elementary School
Sedalia Elementary
Southwest Elementary
Sumner Elementary School

Oklahoma

Dove Science Academy - Tulsa
Dove Science Academy Elementary

Dove Science Academy OKC
Eisenhower High School
Pryor Junior High
Whittier Elementary

South Carolina

Harrisburg Elementary School

Texas

Clear Lake City Elementary
Indian Springs Elementary
John F. Ward Elementary
Lakeside Elementary
Mossman Elementary
Richard J. Lee Elementary
Samuel Beck Elementary

Wisconsin

Edgewood School
Greenwood Elementary School

*Please note that schools re-certifying or re-applying as current State Schools of Character will not appear on this list.