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Character.org Announces 80 Schools 4 Districts as 2015 State Schools of Character

Washington, D.C. (February 17, 2015)— Character.org (formerly the Character Education Partnership), a national character education advocate recognizes 80 schools and 4 districts from 18 states as 2015 [State Schools and Districts of Character](#) today. Since Character.org's Schools of Character program's inception, more than 500 schools have been designated as a State School of Character, impacting more than 750,000 students. *(Complete listing of the 2015 State Schools 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 impact on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. Schools and districts announced today will be forwarded on to the national evaluation process for consideration to be [National Schools of Character](#).

"These schools and districts have created caring cultures where thousands of students and hundreds of educators are empowered to achieve their goals," said Becky Sipos, Character.org's President & CEO. "We applaud every school and district across the United States that participated in this program. This year's designated schools and districts show that advancing character initiatives is a prime factor in developing students into confident and ethical leaders. They have created ideal conditions for students to grow in being both smart and good."

Criteria for the designation are based on Character.org's [11 Principles of Effective Character Education](#), which includes providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in character-building efforts.

"We are thrilled to be designated as a 2015 Missouri School of Character," said Aaron Wilken, Principal of Fox Middle School in Arnold, Missouri. "With this recognition, our staff and students are excited to see their hard work pay off while also setting an example for other schools in our state. We are hopeful that our example will encourage other schools to simply participate in the program as there is so much value in the evaluation process alone that Character.org leads."

The 2015 National Schools of Character will be announced in mid May at a press conference in Washington, D.C. Character.org will also honor these schools and districts at the 22nd National Forum on Character Education, to be held Oct 16-17, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia.

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 led by education leaders who are dedicated to teaching youth 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 National Forum and the Schools of Character program.

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.



2015 State Schools of Character:

Alabama

Cordova Elementary School

California

Valley Prep Academy Charter School

Florida

Imagine School at Evening Rose

Safety Harbor Middle

Georgia

Rocky Branch Elementary School

Illinois

Union Elementary School

Westhaven Elementary School

Iowa

Robert Blue Middle School

Kansas

Complete High School Maize

McEachron Elementary

Pittsburg High School

Maryland

Catoctin High School

Francis Scott Key High School

Francis Scott Key Middle School

Lexington Park Elementary School

Magnolia Elementary School

North Salisbury Elementary School

Oakwood Elementary School

Queen Anne's County High School

Shiloh Middle School

Thurmont Elementary School

Minnesota



Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School

Missouri

Bayless High School

Bayless Junior High School

Busch Middle School of Character

Cold Water Elementary School

Forder Elementary School

Fox Middle School

Grace Early Childhood Care and Education Center

Nottingham CAJT High School

Oakville High School

Rockwood Early Childhood

Selvidge Middle School

Windsor High School

New Jersey

Old Bridge Township Public Schools

Camden County Technical Schools - Gloucester Township Campus

Cedar Hill School

Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti

Liberty Corner School

M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School

Macopin Middle School

Old Bridge High School

Thomas Paine Elementary School

Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School

Virgil Grissom Elementary School

Walter M. Schirra Elementary School

Washington Elementary School- Roselle

William A. Miller Elementary School

New York

Byron-Bergen Central School District

Bridgeport Elementary School

La Cima Elementary Charter School

Lawrence Road Middle School

Mildred E. Strang Middle School

Northern Parkway School



St HOPE Leadership Academy
Valley Stream Memorial J.H.S.
William H. Barton Intermediate School

North Carolina

Brooks Global Elementary School
James Y Joyner Elementary School
The Early/Middle College at Bennett

Oklahoma

Pryor High School

Pennsylvania

Pennsbury School District
Afton Elementary School
Aston Elementary School
Coebourn Elementary School
Edgewood Elementary School
Fallsington Elementary School
Oxford Valley Elementary School
Quarry Hill Elementary School
Pennwood Middle School
Skyview Upper Elementary School
William Penn Middle School

Texas

Cottonwood Creek Elementary
Fort Settlement Middle School
Marshall Leadership Academy
HL Brockett Elementary School
T.E. Baxter Elementary
Northgate Crossing Elementary
Simon Middle School
Zwink Elementary School

Virginia

Hargrave Military Academy

Wisconsin



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School District of South Milwaukee
Catholic Memorial High School
Columbus Elementary School

