

Promising Practices Awards 2011 Application Guidelines



As part of the [National/State Schools of Character \(NSOC/SSOC\) awards program](#), the Character Education Partnership (CEP) gives **Promising Practices** awards to schools and districts in the United States and elsewhere for implementing strategies in character education that exemplify one or more of CEP's [Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education](#). CEP showcases the selected practices on its website, where educators may browse the practice descriptions for ideas and strategies. In addition, CEP honors winners at its annual conference, the [National Forum on Character Education](#), where they have an opportunity to share their practices with others. Award recipients receive a certificate in recognition of their work.

If your school or district has developed and successfully implemented a character education practice, CEP encourages you to apply for a Promising Practices award. CEP is not looking for a description of your entire character education initiative, but rather a specific practice or aspect of your program that other schools may learn from and even replicate. Applicants are encouraged to read samples of [past promising practices](#) on CEP's website before applying.

Applications must be submitted online by March 15, 2011, at CEP's website: www.character.org. (Note: 2011 NSOC and SSOC applicants have until April 15, 2011, to apply.) If you have a problem applying online, please call Iris Wyatt at 202-296-7743, ext. 19 for assistance. **CEP posts winners on its website in late May and mails notification letters soon after.**

When applying, you will be prompted to enter the following. Accuracy is important. You may wish to gather this information before you start the application process although you will be able to edit your application until the application deadline.

- Basic contact information for your school/district
- Demographic information about your students
- Information about how you learned about this award and whether or not you have applied for other CEP awards

Next, you will be asked to add the following information about each practice you wish to submit for consideration. You may add as many practices as you wish, but please note that CEP does not award more than two Promising Practices to any one school or district in one year.

- **Practice Name** – Enter the official name of the practice as you would like it to appear on CEP materials.
- **Principle** – Select one of CEP's Eleven Principles that your practice best represents.
- **Topic** – Select the topic your practice best targets from a list of topics.
- **One-sentence description** – This will appear in the NSOC book and in website search results should your practice win.
- **One-paragraph summary of practice (150-200 words)** -- This description will appear on the CEP website with a photo and contact information should your practice be selected.
- **Responses to three narrative questions – *These responses will be used to evaluate your application.*** Prepare your responses before you begin your online application so that you can cut and paste your responses directly into the application.

1. What is the practice and how have you implemented it in your school or district? (300 words max.)

Provide a detailed and specific description of your practice. When possible, give information about:

- Rationale, goals, and objectives
- Preparation and training
- Number of people involved
- Frequency of the practice
- Bibliographic reference information for any commercial programs or materials cited

2. How does the specific practice contribute to character development? (200 words max.)

Explain how the practice helps students develop good character and any activities that allow for feedback and reflection from students and staff.

3. What impact is the practice having on students in your school or district? (200 words max.)

Provide evidence that students have acquired positive skills, attitudes, or behaviors as a result of this practice. Explain how you have measured success and include any testimonials or survey results that confirm your practice's effectiveness.

- **Photo and caption** – You will be asked to upload a digital photo (jpg, .jpeg, .gif files only) of your practice in action and enter a caption that describes what is happening in the photo. If you do not have one or it would be inappropriate for you to include a photo, you may use a photo of your school. Be sure to follow school or district guidelines in obtaining permission to use the photo.
- **Date of implementation** – Select the year you began this practice.



Applications due March 15, 2011