

## State Schools of Character: A Road to National Recognition

When a family moves to a different area and wants to know if any State or National Schools of Character are located there, this indicates that the State Schools of Character (SSOC) program is working. As parent Jerisha Rutlin said when her family left St. Louis for Maryland, “Spoede Elementary earned the Missouri School of Character award, and I know firsthand the authentic community of caring and character they have. I want this for my children in their next school.”

**S**tate sponsors give State Schools of Character (SSOC) awards to schools and districts that have developed long-term character education initiatives that demonstrate successful implementation of CEP’s Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education. Once designated an SSOC, schools and districts serve as models within their states, where they share best practices and develop a state-level mentoring network by hosting visitors at their sites and presenting at workshops and conferences. For schools or districts from participating states, becoming an SSOC is a prerequisite to becoming a National School (or District) of Character. Beginning in 2011, SSOC Winners will hold their SSOC designation for three years.

Since its inception in 2006, the SSOC awards program has enhanced the quality of character education programs, especially in very active states. “SSOC awards provide a roadmap to help schools know what a school of character is and how to achieve it,” says Missouri SSOC coordinator Suzy Ward. Missouri has had a total of 15 National Schools of Character

(NSOC) thus far, largely because of the strong networking and mentoring of its 26 SSOC. In addition, Ward says, “Strong data [support] increased academic achievement linked to schools with strong character education implementation.”

Kansas SSOC coordinator Sue Kidd states, “Participants in the SSOC program become our ‘model’ schools and programs for quality character education programming in Kansas.” The same is true in New Jersey, the state that first piloted the SSOC program. Winners become part of a statewide professional network of committed educators. The 11 SSOC in 2010 served as resources to other schools at the celebration conference. Each SSOC was assigned one of the 11 Principles in which they scored above average. They then shared their experience and practices with colleagues throughout the state. “They had grown professionally, deepening their commitment to this work and emerging as leaders in the field,” says Rebecca Sapora-Day, manager for program services at the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University.



**Mardele Early (right), the CEO/Principal of Lake Forest Charter Elementary School in New Orleans, proudly receives Louisiana's first State Schools of Character award from Kimberly Jones, SSOC Coordinator.**

### STATE SPONSORS HONORED 78 STATE SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER IN 2010

The State Schools of Character (SSOC) awards program continued to grow in 2010. State sponsors named a total of 78 state winners—up from 55 last year. All but one of the 2010 NSOC Winners and Finalists are from SSOC states, reflecting the level of activity, resources, and leadership in character education in these states. The states with organizations offering strong support experience the highest levels of participation in the program. Missouri and New Jersey received applications in the double digits in 2010. These states continue to serve as models to guide the way for others.

# 2010 State Schools of Character

## CALIFORNIA

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Center for Youth Citizenship

**Brentwood School**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Julian Elementary School<sup>1</sup>**  
Julian, CA  
Julian Union School District

**Wells Middle School**  
Dublin, CA  
Dublin Unified School District

## COLORADO

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Foundation for Character Development

**Charles M. Russell Middle School of Performing Arts and Sciences**  
Colorado Springs, CO  
Colorado Springs School District 11

**Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center**  
Estes Park, CO

**KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy**  
Denver, CO  
Denver Public Schools

**Peak to Peak Charter School**  
Lafayette, CO  
Boulder Valley School District

**Rocky Heights Middle School<sup>2</sup>**  
Littleton, CO  
Douglas County School District

## FLORIDA

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
The Golden Rule Foundation

**Fuguitt Elementary School**  
Largo, FL  
Pinellas County Schools

**Imagine Schools at South Lake**  
Clermont, FL  
Lake County Schools

**Lancaster Elementary School**  
Orlando, FL  
Orange County Public Schools

**Oakhurst Elementary School**  
Largo, FL  
Pinellas County Schools

**Sarasota Middle School<sup>1</sup>**  
Sarasota, FL  
Sarasota County Schools

**Seminole Elementary School<sup>1</sup>**  
Seminole, FL  
Pinellas County Schools

## GEORGIA

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Kennesaw State University

**Carmel Elementary School**  
Woodstock, GA  
Cherokee County School District

**Orrs Elementary School<sup>1</sup>**  
Griffin, GA  
Griffin–Spalding County School System

## ILLINOIS

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
University of Illinois Extension

**Lewis and Clark Elementary School**  
Wood River, IL  
Wood River–Hartford School District 15

**Rondout School**  
Lake Forest, IL  
Rondout School District 72

**West Junior High School**  
Belleville, IL  
Belleville District #118

## INDIANA

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Indiana Department of Education

## IOWA

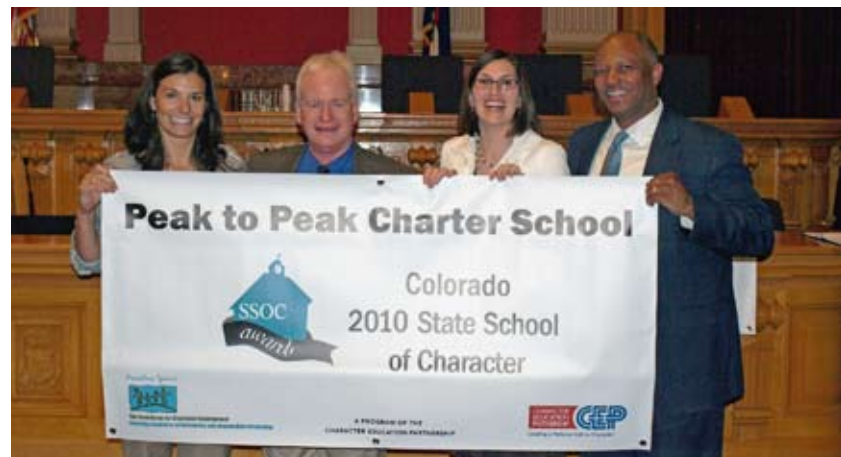
**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Institute for Character Development at Drake University

**Dallas Center–Grimes Middle School**  
Dallas Center, IA  
Dallas Center–Grimes Community School District

## KANSAS

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Kansas Department of Education

**Hesston Unified School District 460**  
Hesston, KS



Noelle Roni, Elementary School Principal; Jim Olmstead, SSOC Coordinator; April Wilkin, Elementary School Assistant Principal; and Dwight Jones, Colorado State Commissioner of Education, happily display Peak to Peak Charter School's SSOC banner.

<sup>1</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Winner

<sup>2</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Finalist



North Oldham Middle School in Goshen, KY, receives its SSOC banner at a Cincinnati Reds pregame ceremony. Steve Saunders, Chairman of the Character Council; Mary Russell, SSOC Chairman; Robb Smith, Principal; Lisa Bowman, Counselor; and Bonnie and Kim Nuxhall join Rosie Red in the celebration.

## KENTUCKY

### STATE SPONSOR:

Character Council of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky

#### North Oldham Middle School

Goshen, KY  
Oldham County Schools

## LOUISIANA

### STATE SPONSOR:

LSU AgCenter 4-H Youth Development

#### Lake Forest Charter Elementary School

New Orleans, LA  
New Orleans Public Schools

## MARYLAND

### STATE SPONSOR:

Maryland Center for Character Education

#### Arundel High School

Gambrills, MD  
Anne Arundel County Public Schools

#### Carney Elementary School

Parkville, MD  
Baltimore County Public Schools

#### Eva Turner Elementary School

Waldorf, MD  
Charles County Public Schools

#### Odyssey School, The

Stevenson, MD

#### Piney Ridge Elementary School

Sykesville, MD  
Carroll County Public Schools

## MASSACHUSETTS

### STATE SPONSOR:

Hudson Public School District, the Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Boston University, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

#### Mill Pond School<sup>1</sup>

Westborough, MA  
Westborough Public Schools

## MICHIGAN

### STATE SPONSOR:

Michigan Department of Education

#### Beverly Elementary School<sup>1</sup>

Beverly Hills, MI  
Birmingham Public Schools

#### Bingham Farms Elementary School

Bingham Farms, MI  
Birmingham Public Schools

#### Chatfield School, The

Lapeer, MI

#### Derby Middle School

Birmingham, MI  
Birmingham Public Schools

## MINNESOTA

### STATE SPONSOR:

Center for Academic Excellence and the Minnesota Department of Education

#### Horace May Elementary School

Bemidji, MN  
Bemidji Area Schools

#### Lakes International Language Academy

Forest Lake, MN

#### Phalen Lake Hmong Studies Magnet School

St. Paul, MN  
St. Paul Public Schools

## MISSOURI

### STATE SPONSOR:

CHARACTERplus

#### Antonia Elementary School

Imperial, MO  
Fox C-6 School District

#### Babler Elementary School

Wildwood, MO  
Rockwood School District

#### Branson Elementary West

Branson, MO  
Branson R-IV School District

#### Fox Elementary School

Arnold, MO  
Fox C-6 School District

#### Lindbergh High School

St. Louis, MO  
Lindbergh School District

#### Perry County Middle School

Perryville, MO  
Perry County School District No. 32

<sup>1</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Winner

<sup>2</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Finalist

## **Seckman High School<sup>1</sup>**

Imperial, MO  
Fox C-6 School District

## **Spoede Elementary School**

St. Louis, MO  
Ladue School District

## **St. Louis Charter School**

St. Louis, MO

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

### **STATE SPONSOR:**

**Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College**

## **NEW JERSEY**

### **STATE SPONSOR:**

**Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University and the New Jersey Department of Education**

## **Alan B. Shepard Elementary School<sup>2</sup>**

Old Bridge, NJ  
Old Bridge Township Public Schools

## **Brigantine Elementary School**

Brigantine, NJ  
Brigantine Public Schools

<sup>1</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Winner

<sup>2</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Finalist

## **Eldridge Park Elementary School**

Lawrenceville, NJ  
Lawrence Township Public Schools

## **James H. Johnson Elementary School**

Cherry Hill, NJ  
Cherry Hill Public Schools

## **John A. Carusi Middle School**

Cherry Hill, NJ  
Cherry Hill Public Schools

## **Joseph J. Catena Elementary School**

Freehold, NJ  
Freehold Borough School District

## **Lake Riviera Middle School**

Brick, NJ  
Brick Township Public Schools

## **Lawrence Intermediate School**

Lawrenceville, NJ  
Lawrence Township Public Schools

## **Lawrenceville Elementary School**

Lawrenceville, NJ  
Lawrence Township Public Schools

## **Lore Elementary School<sup>1</sup>**

Ewing, NJ  
Ewing Public Schools

## **Marion T. Bedwell Elementary School**

Bernardsville, NJ  
Somerset Hills School District

## **NEW YORK**

### **STATE SPONSOR:**

**Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges**

## **Chatham Middle School**

Chatham, NY  
Chatham Central School District

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **STATE SPONSOR:**

**North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**

## **OHIO**

### **STATE SPONSOR:**

**Ohio Partners in Character Education, Ohio Department of Education, and Ohio Better Business Bureaus**

## **Hamilton City School District**

Hamilton, OH

## **Sentinel Career Center<sup>1</sup>**

Tiffin, OH  
Vanguard-Sentinel Career Centers

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **STATE SPONSOR:**

**Center for Leadership and Ethics**

## **Aston Elementary School**

Aston, PA  
Penn-Delco School District

## **Fell Charter Elementary School**

Simpson, PA

## **Peters Township School District<sup>1</sup>**

McMurray, PA

## **Upper Merion Area Middle School<sup>1</sup>**

King of Prussia, PA  
Upper Merion Area School District

## **Wilson Southern Middle School**

Sinking Spring, PA  
Wilson School District



**Janet Waugh, chair of the Kansas State Board of Education; Stephanie Litton, Jillian Toews, and Donna Schadler, Hesston counselors; and Dr. Diane DeBacker, interim Department of Education commissioner, celebrate Hesston Unified School District's Kansas District of Character award.**



Students are active participants in celebrating Fox Elementary School's SSOC banner presentation in Arnold, Missouri. The school is also a CEP Profiles in Character award winner.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
South Carolina Department of Education

**B. D. Lee Elementary School**  
Gaffney, SC  
Cherokee County School District

**Berkeley Elementary School**  
Moncks Corner, SC  
Berkeley County School District

**Brockman Elementary School**  
Columbia, SC  
Richland County School District One

**Indian Land Middle School**  
Indian Land, SC  
Lancaster County School District

**Lake Carolina Elementary School<sup>1</sup>**  
Blythewood, SC  
Richland School District Two

**Taylor's Elementary School**  
Taylors, SC  
Greenville County Schools

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Sponsor in Transition

**TEXAS**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Houston, Dallas, and Klein Independent School Districts

**T. H. Rogers School**  
Houston, TX  
Houston Independent School District

**UTAH**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Center for Community of Caring at the University of Utah

**Alpine Elementary School**  
Alpine, UT  
Alpine School District

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic School**  
Sandy, UT

**VIRGINIA**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
School of Education, Regent University

**Dreamkeepers Academy at J. J. Roberts Elementary School**  
Norfolk, VA  
Norfolk Public Schools

**WASHINGTON**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Leadership Innovations Team, Whitworth University, and Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

**Lynnwood Elementary School<sup>2</sup>**  
Lynnwood, WA  
Edmonds School District

**WEST VIRGINIA**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
College of Education and Human Services, Marshall University

**Union Elementary School**  
Buckhannon, WV  
Upshur County Schools

**WISCONSIN**

**STATE SPONSOR:**  
Wisconsin Character Education Partnership

**School District of Jefferson<sup>1</sup>**  
Jefferson, WI

**Stormonth Elementary School**  
Fox Point, WI  
Fox Point-Bayside School District

**NEW STATE SPONSOR BEGINNING IN 2011**

Sponsors in participating states receive a grant of \$6,000 to set up and execute the process of soliciting and screening applications for SSOC awards. CEP provides that funding for initiation of the project, and the sponsor agrees to support the SSOC program in future years. The Character Council of Central Oklahoma is a new sponsor in 2011, bringing the total number of states with state sponsors to 30.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Janice Stoodley**, Director  
National Schools of Character

<sup>1</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Winner  
<sup>2</sup>2010 National Schools of Character Finalist