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43 Schools and 1 School District Recognized for Excellence

May 11, 2011 . . . Washington, DC – The Character Education Partnership (CEP) has named 38 public schools, 3 charter schools, 2 private schools, and 1 school district as 2011 National Schools of Character (NSOC).

“It is truly inspiring to see what these schools have been able to accomplish by coming together around a shared purpose,” said CEP President & CEO Joe Mazzola. “We see over and over that when schools embrace the critical role they have in shaping the character of young people, achievement and morale go up and bullying and discipline problems go down.”

Since 1998, CEP has recognized schools for their outstanding character development of students through its prestigious NSOC program. With more and more schools achieving a level of excellence, CEP changed the program from a competition to a school improvement process in 2010. The change allows CEP to recognize all schools that meet the standard of excellence established by the *11 Principles of Effective Character Education*.

“Schools of character are places that bring out the best in everyone – students, staff, and even parents and community members,” said NSOC Director Lara Maupin. “This year, a record number of schools demonstrated school cultures that enable all their students to thrive socially and academically. These schools went through a very rigorous evaluation process and we are thrilled to recognize their achievements and tell their stories.”

CEP will honor the 2011 National Schools of Character at the National Forum on Character Education, to be held October 19 – 22 in San Francisco. After being named NSOC, schools serve as models and mentors, helping other educators transform their school cultures and improve academics and behavior.

For more information about CEP, the NSOC program, the 11 Principles, or the National Forum, visit www.character.org.

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Character Education Partnership - 2011 National Schools of Character

Alan B. Shepard Jr. Elementary School, Old Bridge, New Jersey
Babler Elementary School, Wildwood, Missouri
Bayless Elementary School, St. Louis, Missouri
Beauvoir the National Cathedral Elementary School, Washington, D.C.
Bell's Crossing Elementary School, Simpsonville, South Carolina
Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, Franklin, Massachusetts
Bingham Farms Elementary School, Bingham Farms, Michigan
Bowles Elementary School, Fenton, Missouri
Branson Elementary West, Branson, Missouri
Brentwood School, Los Angeles, California
Brigantine Elementary School, Brigantine, New Jersey
Chatham Middle School, Chatham, New York
Cotswold Elementary School, Charlotte, North Carolina
Crestwood Elementary School, Crestwood, Missouri
Duffy Elementary School, West Hartford, Connecticut
Duncan Elementary School, Fort Hood, Texas
Eldridge Park School, Lawrenceville, New Jersey
Fort Bend Independent School District, Sugar Land, Texas
Fox Middle School, Arnold, Missouri
Fuguitt Elementary School, Largo, Florida
Geggie Elementary School, Eureka, Missouri
George Guffey Elementary, Fenton, Missouri
Imagine South Lake, Clermont, Florida
John A. Carusi Middle School, Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Joseph J Catena School, Freehold, New Jersey
Kellison Elementary School, Fenton, Missouri
Lake Riviera Middle School, Brick, New Jersey
Lincoln Elementary School, Troy, Missouri
Lindbergh High School, St. Louis, Missouri
Mark Twain Elementary School, Brentwood, Missouri
Muskogee High School, Muskogee, Oklahoma
Oakhurst Elementary School, Largo, Florida
Oakwood Elementary School, Glen Burnie, Maryland
Pembroke Elementary School, Troy, Michigan
Pierce Elementary School, Birmingham, Michigan
Renfro Elementary School, Collinsville, Illinois
Roosevelt Primary School, Ferndale, Michigan
St. Louis Charter School, St. Louis, Missouri
Salt Brook Elementary School, New Providence, New Jersey
South Brunswick High School, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey
Union Elementary School, Buckhannon, West Virginia
Uthoff Valley Elementary School, Fenton, Missouri
Walnut Street School, Uniondale, New York
Woerther Elementary School, Ballwin, Missouri

Geographic distribution / demographics:

The 2011 NSOC represent 15 states plus the District of Columbia. Six states have two or more: Missouri (15), New Jersey (8), Michigan (4), Florida (3), New York (2), and Texas (2). In 2011, 30 states participated in the State Schools of Character program, a preliminary step in reaching the national level. All but two of the NSOC were from one of these participating states and also named State Schools of Character in their states. Thirty-one of the NSOC are public elementary schools, two are private elementary schools, three are K-8 charter schools, four are public middle schools, three are public high schools, and one is a public school district. Most are located in suburban settings although nine are in more urban settings and three are located in rural areas. A number of the NSOC have student populations that may be described as low-income; over half (24) have one-quarter or more of their students eligible for free or reduced price lunch.