

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

Washington, D.C. (January 27, 2017)—Today, [Character.org](http://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.

Dour Karr, President and CEO of Character.org expressed, "We are excited to recognize these schools as role models for preparing students to live and lead with integrity, in addition to providing an engaging, dynamic education. These schools represent the hundreds of thousands of people working on their character, showcasing the process of where "I" meets "we" for positive change. Their stories encourage us to take the character movement beyond schools and into our own individual growth stories. They are an inspiration to us all."

"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](http://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.