Character.org Designates 73 schools as 2018 National Schools of Character and 5 districts as 2018 National Districts of Character.

Program developed in 1998 has positively impacted the lives of close to 2 million students

Washington, D.C. (May 18, 2018)—Character.org, the nonprofit organization that validates character initiatives in schools and communities around the world, today designated 73 schools and 5 districts from 17 states as 2018 National Schools and Districts of Character.

Since the inception of Character.org’s Schools of Character program in 1998, 547 schools and 35 districts have been designated as National Schools or Districts of Character, impacting more than 3 million people’s lives (A complete list of the 2018 National Schools and Districts of Character is included at bottom of this release). All designees will be announced May 18th at the conference of the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development conference at Rider University at 9:20am ET. The event will be live-streamed across the nation.

Each year, Character.org and its state affiliates certify schools and districts that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development with a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior, school climate and their communities. Character.org evaluates schools and districts selected in January as State Schools of Character (along with those schools who reapplied within their 3-year designation) Character.org for consideration for national certification as National Schools of Character.

Through an in-depth and rigorous evaluation process, these schools were found to be exemplary models in character development. Of the schools named today, 17 schools are former National Schools of Character that have re-applied for the national designation. Criteria for selection are based on Character.org’s 11 Principles of Effective Character Education, a framework to assist schools in providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

"At Character.org, we are extremely proud of this year's National Schools of Character as well as our district recipients. Their dedication to character development is reducing the skills gap by equipping the future workforce with transferable relationship skills needed to meet tomorrow's challenges," said Doug Karr, Character.org’s President & CEO. "Validating character initiatives is at the core of what we do, because they create fertile conditions for multi-generational character growth in communities of character. This year as we celebrate our Silver Anniversary, we are excited to also recognize 20 years of incredible National Schools of Character.”

Character.org will honor the designated schools and districts at its 25th National Forum on Character to be held October 4-7, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum, the Schools of Character Certification (State & National) and the 2018 national honorees.

About Character.org: Founded in 1993, Character.org, is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. The mission of the organization is to provide leadership and advocacy for character worldwide. It is
dedicated to helping people everywhere become educated, inspired and empowered to be ethical and compassionate citizens. Character.org validates character initiatives in schools, sports, families and the workplace through certifications, convenings and the exchange of best practices. Results of effective character initiatives in schools typically include improved academic achievement, a decline in behavioral problems and an increase in an overall positive school climate.

About Character Education: Character education is an approach to school culture and climate improvement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive and intentional 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 empathy, honesty, diligence, fairness, fortitude, responsibility, grit, creativity, critical thinking and respect for self and others.

2018 National Districts of Character

**Michigan**

**Birmingham Public Schools**
Beverly Hills, Michigan
Public • Pre-K-12

**New Jersey**

**Cherry Hill Public Schools**
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Public • Pre-K-12

**Montville Township School District**
Montville, New Jersey
Public • Pre-K-12

**East Hanover Park Regional High School District**
East Hanover, New Jersey
Public • 9-12

**Mantua Township School District**
Sewell, New Jersey
Public • Pre-K-6

*indicates that the school or district is re-certifying

2018 National Schools of Character

**Alabama**

**Deer Valley Elementary**
Hoover, Alabama
Public • K-4

**Imagine Rosefield**
Surprise, Arizona
Charter • Pre-K-5

**Arizona**

**Sitting Bull Academy**
Apple Valley, California
Florida

Imagine School Land O’ Lakes
Land O’ Lakes, Florida
Charter•K-8

*Wilton Manors Elementary
Wilton Manors, Florida
Public•PreK-5

Georgia

Liberty Elementary School
Canton, Georgia
Public•K-4

Illinois

Ellis Elementary
Belleville, Illinois
Public•Pre-K-3

Indiana

Christel House Academy South
Indianapolis, Indiana
Charter•K-12

Kansas

Beloit Jr./Sr. High School
Beloit, Kansas
Public•7-12

Nemaha Central Elementary & Middle School
Seneca, Kansas
Public•Pre-K-8

Maryland

Catoctin High School
Thurmont, Maryland
Public•9-12

Glyndon Elementary School
Reisterstown, Maryland
Public•Pre-K-5

Piney Ridge Elementary School
Sykesville, Maryland
Public•K-5

Warren Elementary
Cockeysville, Maryland
Public•Pre-K-5

Michigan

*Beverly Elementary School
Beverly Hills, Michigan
Public•K-5

*Birmingham Covington School
Bloomfield Township, Michigan
Public•3-8

*Greenfield Elementary School
Beverly Hills, Michigan
Public•K-4

Quarton Elementary School
Birmingham, Michigan
Public•K-5

*West Maple Elementary
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
Public•Pre-K-5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<td>*Beasley Elementary</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Pre-K-5</td>
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<td>*Chesterfield Elementary</td>
<td>Chesterfield, Missouri</td>
<td>Public</td>
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<td>*Discovery Ridge Elementary</td>
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<td>Jefferson City, Missouri</td>
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<td>Alexander Denbo Elementary School</td>
<td>Browns Mills, New Jersey</td>
<td>Public</td>
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<td>Apshawa Elementary School</td>
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<td>K-6</td>
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<td>Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School</td>
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</tbody>
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Bellmawr, New Jersey
Public•5-8

**Bret Harte Elementary**
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Public•K-5

**Fort Dix Elementary**
Fort Dix, New Jersey
Public•PreK-5

**Frank J. Smith**
East Hanover, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-2

**Hilltop School**
Mendham, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-4

**Howard L. Emmons Elementary**
Pemberton, New Jersey
Public•K-2

**Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School**
Cherry Hill, New Jersey
Public•K-5

**Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School**
Browns Mills, New Jersey
Public•3-5

*Madison Park Elementary*
Parlin, New Jersey
Public•K-5

**Moss School**
Metuchen, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-K

**Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center**
Pemberton, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K

**Robert R. Lazar Middle School**
Montville, New Jersey
Public•6-8

**Samuel T. Busansky Upper Elementary School**
Pemberton, New Jersey
Public•3-5

**Terence C. Reilly**
Elizabeth, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K and 2-8

**Unity Charter School**
Morristown, New Jersey
Charter•K-8

**West End Elementary School**
North Plainfield, New Jersey
Public•Pre-K-4

**Westbrook Elementary School**
West Milford, New Jersey
Public•K-6

**New York**

**Como Park Elementary School**
Lancaster, New York
Public•K-3

**Palmyra-Macedon Middle School**
Palmyra, New York
Public•6-8
Plaza Elementary  
Baldwin, New York  
Public•K-5

William H. Barton Intermediate School  
Queensbury, New York  
Public•4-5

North Carolina  

Ridgewood Elementary School  
Winterville, North Carolina  
Public•K-5

STEM Early College at NC A&T  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
Public•9-12

Ohio

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Public•K-6

Imagine Great Western Academy  
Columbus, Ohio  
Public•K-8

Stingley Elementary  
Centerville, Ohio  
Public•2-5

Oklahoma  

Dove School of Discovery  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Charter•K-6

Dove Science Academy – Tulsa  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Charter•7-12

MacArthur High School  
Lawton, Oklahoma  
Public•9-12

Texas

Flower Mound Elementary  
Flower Mound, Texas  
Public•K-5

*Kay Granger Elementary  
Fort Worth, Texas  
Public•K-5

Lonnie B. Keller Middle School  
Pasadena, Texas  
Public•5-6

McAuliffe Elementary  
Highland Village, Texas  
Public•PreK-5

Medlin Middle School  
Trophy Club, Texas  
Public•6-8

*North Pointe Elementary School  
Houston, Texas  
Public•Pre-K-5