

## Character.org Certifies 61 State Schools and 5 Districts of Character

**Washington, D.C.** (February 1, 2018)— [Character.org](http://Character.org), a national advocate and leader for character in communities including schools, districts, families, workplaces and sports organizations, today designated 61 schools and five districts in 17 states as [State Schools of Character](#) for 2018. Two international schools also applied for and will receive a School of Character certification, which will be announced with National Schools of Character in mid-May. Since Character.org's School of Character program's inception, we have impacted nearly 1,000,000 students through the Schools of Character process.

Each year, Character.org certifies schools and districts at the state level that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development which has a true positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate. Schools and districts announced today will be considered for our highest distinction-[National School of Character](#). There are also 11 schools and one district that are former State Schools of Character reapplying for the national certification and 23 schools recertifying as a National Schools of Character. (See the complete list of 2018 State Schools of Character below.)

"We are truly proud of the 2018 state schools and districts," said Doug Karr, Character.org's President & CEO. "It has been an honor to validate their character initiatives which have created conditions for life-long learning where students are thriving and growing into ethical and productive members of our society."

To learn more about the schools chosen today and those in the midst of their 3-year certification 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.

"Comprehensive character development positively affects not only our students, but also teachers, parents, and the entire community. The lasting effects of this program is really what makes it all worthwhile because of the opportunity it provides to improve our entire society," said Robert Fisicaro, Mantua Township School District Superintendent.

The 2018 National Schools of Character will be announced in May 2018. Character.org will honor these schools and districts at the [25th National Forum on Character](#) to be held Oct 4-7, 2018 in Washington, DC.

**About Character.org:** Founded in 1993, Character.org is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. It works with communities including organizations, schools, families, workplaces and sports to inspire, educate and empower people to be ethical and compassionate citizens. Character.org is a membership organization dedicated to growth and success through the advancement of quality character development in schools and communities through our Convene, Exchange and Achieve programs..Visit [www.character.org](http://www.character.org) to learn more.

**About Character Education & Development:** 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 in partnership with families 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.

2018 State Schools and Districts of Character

**Alabama**

Deer Valley Elementary  
Mountain Brook Elementary

**Arizona**

Imagine Cortez Park  
Imagine Rosefield

**California**

Sitting Bull Academy

**Florida**

Imagine Kissimmee Charter  
Imagine School Land O Lakes  
Imagine South Vero  
Orlando Science Schools Middle High

**Illinois**

Ellis Elementary  
Forest Park I.E. School

**Kansas**

Beloit Jr./Sr. High School  
Nemaha Central Elementary & Middle School

**Maryland**

Glyndon Elementary School

**Michigan**

Birmingham Public Schools  
Larson Middle School

**Missouri**

Ballwin Elementary  
Farmington Middle School  
Hancock High School  
Kentucky Trail Elementary  
MRH Elementary School  
Parkway Central Middle School  
Parkway Early Childhood  
Ray and Nancy Hodge Elementary  
Reed School  
Windsor C-1 School District  
Windsor Elementary

**New Jersey**

Apshawa Elementary School  
Bell Oaks Upper Elementary School  
Fort Dix Elementary  
Green Fields Elementary  
Harker-Wylie Elementary School  
Hilltop School  
Joseph D. Sharp Elementary School  
Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School  
Mantua Township School District  
Mary E. Volz Elementary and Middle School  
Montville Township Public Schools  
Moss School  
Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center  
Riverview Elementary School  
Robert R. Lazar Middle School  
Samuel T. Busansky Upper Elementary School  
Terence C. Reilly, School No.7  
Unity Charter School  
Vineland Public Schools  
West End Elementary School  
West Milford Township High School  
Westbrook Elementary School

**New York**

Como Park Elementary School  
Lee Road Elementary School  
Palmyra-Macedon Middle School  
Plaza Elementary

**North Carolina**

Ridgewood Elementary School  
STEM Early College at CN A & T

**Ohio**

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence  
Imagine Great Western Academy  
Stingley Elementary

**Oklahoma**

Dove School of Discovery  
MacArthur High School

**Pennsylvania**

St. Cyril of Alexandria

**Texas**

Flower Mound Elementary

Goforth Elementary  
Klein Forest High School  
Lonnie B. Keller Middle School  
McAuliffe Elementary  
Medlin Middle School  
Wylie ISD