The **2019 Promising Practices in Character Education** represent
5 different countries (United States, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti and Mexico); 21 states and Washington DC — with the largest numbers from New Jersey, Missouri and Florida; 210 public, charter and private schools as well as 7 organizations, 2 universities, 13 sports organizations, and 6 school districts. Character.org administers the annual process to showcase innovative best practices that are having an impact across the nation and abroad.
**11 Principles of Effective Character**

**Principle 1:** Defines, implements and embeds core values.

**Principle 2:** Defines character by including thinking, feeling, and doing.

**Principle 3:** Uses a comprehensive, intentional and proactive approach to develop character.

**Principle 4:** Creates a caring community.

**Principle 5:** Provides opportunities for moral action.

**Principle 6:** Provides meaningful, challenging learning in respectful ways that develops character and leads to success in life.

**Principle 7:** Fosters self-motivation.

**Principle 8:** Creates an accountable learning community.

**Principle 9:** Creates shared moral leadership that sustains character work.

**Principle 10:** Engages families and community members.

**Principle 11:** Assesses and adjust the character initiative regularly.
ALABAMA

Biography of Wisdom
Cornerstone Schools of Alabama
Birmingham, Alabama

Childersburg High School Homes
Childersburg High School
Childersburg, Alabama

Eagles ACT (Assess, Challenge, Train)
Cornerstone Schools of Alabama
Birmingham, Alabama

Excellence Together
Cornerstone Schools of Alabama
Birmingham, Alabama

Safe and Happy Heights
Vestavia Hills Elementary at Cahaba Heights
Vestavia Hills, Alabama

Squad Wars: Building Relationships and Serving our Community
Huntington Place Elementary
Northport, Alabama

Tiger Way Kindness Agents
Hartselle Intermediate School
Hartselle, Alabama

UCS Kindness Club
University Charter School
Livingston, Alabama

ARIZONA

8th Grade Lock In
Imagine East Mesa
Mesa, Arizona

BlazerWorld Better Business Bureau
Imagine Bell Canyon
Phoenix, Arizona

Dragons Den
Imagine Desert West Middle School
Phoenix, Arizona
Imagine Desert West MS High School Night
Imagine Desert West Middle School
Phoenix, Arizona

LEAD Leadership Exploration and Development
Imagine Bell Canyon
Phoenix, Arizona

Lunch Bunch
Imagine Prep Surprise
Surprise, Arizona

Respect Assembly
Imagine Coolidge Elementary School
Coolidge, Arizona

California

City of Mission Viejo Community of Character Committee
City of Mission Viejo Community of Character Committee
Mission Viejo, California

Steel Sports Coaching System
Steel Sports Coaching System
Hermosa, California

Team Talks
Coastal Academy
Oceanside, California

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Data Day
Hope Community Public Charter School
Washington, DC

Elite Scholar Initiative
Imagine Hope Tolson
Washington, DC

FLORIDA

Career Day
Imagine Schools South Vero
South Vero, Florida

Character Circles
Seminole Middle School
Seminole, Florida
FIRE Focused Intervention, Remediation and Enrichment Program
Imagine School Land O' Lakes
Land O' Lakes, Florida

JIFmas Tree (Justice, Integrity, Fun)
Imagine School at Town Center
Palm Coast, Florida

Kids helping Kids
Imagine Chancellor
Boynton Beach, Florida

Kindness Matters at the Imagine North Port Upper Campus
Imagine School
North Port, Florida

Mental Health Tiered System of Support
Imagine South Lake Charter
Clermont, Florida

Other People MAtter Mindset
Imagine School at Lakewood Ranch
Bradenton, Florida

Restorative Questions for Conflict Resolution Cards
Imagine School at Palmer Ranch
Sarasota, Florida

Schoolwide Research on Creative, Inventive, and Notable People
Imagine South Lake Charter
Clermont, Florida

Sharing Refrigerator
Imagine School at North Port
North Port, Florida

Student ACES Character education for Student Athletes
ACES
West Palm Beach, Florida

Student Success Wall
Imagine School at Town Center
Palm Coast, Florida
Two Student Led Task Forces  
*Imagine School at Palmer Ranch*  
Sarasta, Florida

**Warrior Circles/Restore Team**  
*Imagine Schools at South Lake*  
Clermont, Florida

**We Belong Cafe Club**  
*Imagine Charter School at Weston*  
Weston, Florida

**GEORGIA**

**Birthday Bins and Meal Kits for Foster Families**  
*Liberty Elementary School*  
Canton, Georgia

**Caring for Caritas**  
*Liberty Elementary School*  
Canton, Georgia

**Small Group Counseling Leads to Recess Inclusion**  
*Rocky Branch Elementary School - Oconee County Schools*  
Bogart, Georgia

**Kansas**

**Brewer Elementary's Morning Meetings**  
*David Brewer Elementary School*  
Leavenworth, Kansas

**Classroom Constitution**  
*David Brewer Elementary School*  
Leavenworth, Kansas
Fabulous "FAB" Families
Nemaha Central Elementary & Middle School
Seneca, Kansas

Kentucky

Global Game Changer
Global Game Changers
Louisville, Kentucky

Maryland

Character Coaches
Imagine Lincoln Public Charter
Temple Hills, Maryland

Lunch Academies
Imagine Foundations at Leeland
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

PSAT BootCamp
Imagine Lincoln
Temple Hills, Maryland

The Giving Tree character initiative
Imagine Andrews Public Charter School
Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

The Imagine Andrews' Concern Box
Imagine Andrews Public Charter School
Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

Michigan

Bridge Builders
Berkshire Middle School
Bloomfield, Michigan

**International Kids Film Festival**
*Pierce Elementary School*
Birmingham, Michigan

**Science Literacy**
*Birmingham Covington School*
Bloomfield, Michigan

**Tobey Way**
*Tobey Elementary School*
Scotts, Michigan

**Minnesota**

**Community of Peace Academy's 3 Days of Service**
*Community of Peace Academy*
Saint Paul, Minnesota

**Inclusivity Rock Garden**
*Lakes International Language Academy*
Forest Lake, Minnesota

**Missouri**

**Restorative Circles**
*Wydown Middle School*
Clayton, Missouri

**Abilities Awareness Day**
*Barretts Elementary School*
Manchester, Missouri

**Abilities Day**
*Ladue Early Childhood Center*
Creve Coeur, Missouri

**ANP Buddies**
*Oakville High School*
St. Louis, Missouri

**Blowing Off Steam**
*Antonia Middle*
Barnhart, Missouri
Bridging the Generation Gap with Grandfriends
Chesterfield Elementary
Chesterfield, Missouri

Character Education Action Teams
Crestview Middle School
Ellisville, Missouri

Character Family Days
Cold Water Elementary
Florissant, Missouri

Cheetah Chill Corner
Hazelwood School District - Early Childhood
Florissant, Missouri

Choose Kind Kids Club
Washington-Franklin Elementary School
Farmington, Missouri

Creating OWLstanding Community Partnerships
Windsor Elementary
Imperial, Missouri

Diversity Day
Lindbergh High School
St. Louis, Missouri

Ecobuds
Highcroft Ridge Elementary
Chesterfield, Missouri

Empathy in Action
Truman Learning Center; Farmington R-VII
Farmington, Missouri

Fist Bump Fridays
Ralph M. Captain
St. Louis, Missouri

Green Schools Quest: Bottle Caps, Shoes, Pill Bottles, Used Markers
Nottingham Community Access and Job Training High School
St. Louis, Missouri

Green Trails Crews
Green Trails Elementary
Chesterfield, Missouri
Help for Billy Book Study  
*George Guffey Elementary*  
Fenton, Missouri

**Just Because**  
*Mehlville High School*  
St. Louis, Missouri

**K.U.D.O.S. (kids understanding differences and overcoming stereotypes)**  
*Crestview Middle School*  
Ellisville, Missouri

**Restorative Circles**  
*Wydown Middle School*  
Chesterfield, Missouri

**Leadership Academy**  
*McKelvey Elementary*  
St. Louis, Missouri

**LHS Connections**  
*Lafayette High School*  
Wildwood, Missouri

**Light Up Lincoln County**  
*Lincoln County R-III ECEC*  
Troy, Missouri

**Limitations are Forgotten; Differences are Celebrated**  
*Nottingham Community Access and Job Training High School*  
St. Louis, Missouri

**Maccabia Games**  
*Epstein Hebrew Academy*  
St. Louis, Missouri

**Mighty Oaks Field Day**  
*Ladue Early Childhood Center*  
Creve Coeur, Missouri

**Mindfulness Groups**  
*Rockwood School District*  
Wildwood, Missouri

**Mugs With Hugs**  
*Maple Grove*
Dittmer, Missouri

Para-Cord-Pets
*Sperreng Middle School*
St. Louis, Missouri

Passport to the Bayless World
*Bayless Elementary School*
St. Louis, Missouri

Peace Begins with Me
*Cold Water Elementary*
Florissant, Missouri

Pierremont Student Leadership
*Pierremont Elementary*
Manchester, Missouri

Red Hats for Hearts
*Antonia Middle School, Fox C-6 School District*
Barnhart, Missouri

Ryan's Well Fundraiser
*Belton School District 124*
Belton, Missouri

Sock it to Cancer
*Don Earl Early Childhood Center*
Arnold, Missouri

Sock It To Me!
*Uthoff Valley Elem*
Fenton, Missouri

Student led character videos
*Woerther Elementary School*
Ballwin, Missouri

Student led Service Day
*Truman Middle School*
St. Louis, Missouri

Student Wellness Conference
*Eureka High School*
Eureka, Missouri

Teen Voice for Change
Parkway South High School
Manchester, Missouri

The Captain Closet
Ralph M Captain
St. Louis, Missouri

The Fifth Grade Arcade
BALLWIN ELEMENTARY
Ballwin, Missouri

Viking Leadership Academy
Francis Howell High School
St. Charles, Missouri

Walk, Run, Roll Event
Rockwood School District - Early Childhood
Wildwood, Missouri

WIN (What I Need) Time
Parkway Central Middle School
Chesterfield, Missouri

New Jersey

Celebrate the Children colab
Whippany Park High School
Whippany, New Jersey

"Let's Talk" during Family Night
JONAS SALK MIDDLE SCHOOL/OLD BRIDGE TWP SCHOOLS
Old Bridge, New Jersey

"Out of office" day
Carl Sandburg Middle School
Old Bridge, New Jersey

Creating a Culture of Kindness
Frank R. Conwell MS 4
Jersey City, New Jersey

“Seeds of Service”
Catherine A. Dwyer Elementary School, Rockaway Township, NJ
Wharton, New Jersey
A Roadmap for Respect, Kindness, Gratitude, Grit, Courage and Resilience
*Montville Township Public Schools*
Montville, New Jersey

**Administrators, Survivors, and Athletes Team Competition Day**
*West Milford Field Hockey Program*
West Milford, New Jersey

**All In!**
*Oxford Central School*
Oxford, New Jersey

**Arcade for Autism**
*Hanover Park High School*
East Hanover, New Jersey

**ARK Energy Bus Agreements**
*A. Russell Knight Elementary School*
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

**BookMates**
*Rosa International Middle School*
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

**Calming Corners**
*Ben Franklin Elementary*
Lawrence Township, New Jersey

**Campbell's Food Bankpacks**
*Campbell Elementary School*
Metuchen, New Jersey

**Caretakers**
*Apshawa Elementary School*
West Milford, New Jersey

**Celebrity Day - Substance Abuse Prevention**
*Copeland Middle School*
Rockaway, New Jersey

**Character Education Through Sports Education**
*Liberty Corner School*
Liberty Corner, New Jersey

**Christmas At Grams**
*Terence C. Reilly School No. 7*
Elizabeth, New Jersey
Compassion Through Art program
Board of Education
Little Falls, New Jersey

Culture, Caffeine & Conversation
Samuel T. Busansky Upper Elementary School
Pemberton, New Jersey

Cunningham Helping and Mentoring Petway Patriots Program (CHAMPP)
Petway Elementary School
Vineland, New Jersey

DEASEL days
A.C. Redshaw Elementary School
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Digital Citizenship Family Night
Riverview Elementary School
Denville, New Jersey

Empathy & Compassion Through Service Learning
West Deptford Middle School
WEST DEPTFORD, New Jersey

Family Literacy Night
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary School
Old Bridge, New Jersey

First Ladies
Jerome Dunn Academy of Mathematics, Technology & Arts
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Footprints girls mentoring program
Woodmont Elementary School
Pine Brook, New Jersey

FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) Club
Cherry Hill High School East
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Full STEAM Ahead
West Milford High School
West Milford, New Jersey

GATOR Binder
Virgil I. Grissom Elementary School
Old Bridge, New Jersey

**GTC Restorative Justice**
*Camden County Technical Schools Gloucester Township Campus*
Sicklerville, New Jersey

**Helping Others Through Practice**
*Camden County Technical Schools' Pennsauken Campus*
Pennsauken, New Jersey

**Highlander Academy Mentor Program**
*West Milford Township Public Schools*
West Milford, New Jersey

**Highlander Helpers**
*West Milford Township Public Schools*
West Milford, New Jersey

**Husky's Healthy Pedalers**
*Memorial Elementary School*
Laurence Harbor, New Jersey

**Interact’s Annual “Casino Night”**
*Cinnaminson High School*
Cinnaminson, New Jersey

**Interview Day**
*Lawrence Middle School*
Lawrenceville, New Jersey

**JEDTA Unity Day**
*John E Dwyer Technology Academy*
Elizabeth, New Jersey

**KDM Snack Cart**
*Katharine D. Malone Elementary School*
Rockaway, New Jersey

**Kindness Ambassadors**
*Walter M. Schirra Elementary School*
Old Bridge, New Jersey

**Kindness Buddies**
*East Greenwich Township Schools*
Mickleton, New Jersey
Kindness Ninjas  
Birchwood School  
Hibernia, New Jersey

Life Lines  
Berlin Community School  
Berlin, New Jersey

LMS Energy Bus  
Lawrence Middle School  
Lawrenceville, New Jersey

Lunch & Recess Captains  
Clara Barton Elementary  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Make A Change  
Anthony Rossi Intermediate School  
Vineland, New Jersey

Math Buddy Mondays  
Greenwood Elementary School  
Hamilton, New Jersey

Miller Kids Konnect  
Old Bridge Public Schools  
Old Bridge, New Jersey

Parents as Partners  
Joseph H. Brensinger Elementary  
Jersey City, New Jersey

Parrot Pride Buddy Program  
Duarte – Marti School No. 28  
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Petway's Parent Partnership  
Petway Elementary School  
Vineland, New Jersey

Phillip the Fill-Up  
Apshawa Elementary School  
West Milford, New Jersey

Popping with Good Character  
Dogwood Hill Elementary School  
Oakland, New Jersey
Positive Postcards
Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School
Cliffwood Beach, New Jersey

R.O.B.O.T (Respect Others; Be Outstanding Together)
Catherine A. Dwyer Elementary School, Rockaway Township School District
Wharton, New Jersey

Social Issue Book Clubs
Manito Elementary School
Oakland, New Jersey

Soup-er Supper for Seniors
Cinnaminson Middle School
Cinnaminson, New Jersey

Stars Over Africa
Rosa International Middle School
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Step-Up Club
Valley Middle School/ Oakland Public Schools District
Oakland, New Jersey

Super Hero Powers Rally
Donald Stewart Ecc 51
Elizabeth, New Jersey

TedEd Club
Joseph H. Brensinger Elementary PS #17
Jersey City, New Jersey

The Circle of Friends Character Education Club
Newcomb Middle School
Pemberton, New Jersey

The Green Team
West Milford High School
West Milford, New Jersey

The Joining Old and Young (JOY)
Heights School
Oakland, New Jersey
The Mustang Way
Carusi Middle School
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Tiger's Den
Walter M. Schirra Elementary School
Old Bridge, New Jersey

UGL Kind Kids
Upper Greenwood Lake School
Hewitt, New Jersey

Unity Day
Cherry Hill High School East
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Voorhees Read Patrol
Raymond E. Voorhees Elementary School
Old Bridge, New Jersey

Walk a Mile In Our Shoes
Old Bridge High School
Matawan, New Jersey

WE RISE
West Essex Middle School
North Caldwell, New Jersey

West Milford High School Athletic Hall of Fame (WMHOF)
West Milford High School Athletic Hall of Fame
West Milford, New Jersey

Westbrook Cultural Connect Club
Westbrook Elementary School
West Milford, New Jersey

Westbrook service project
Westbrook Elementary School
West Milford, New Jersey

Why Not Me, Why Not You, Why Not Us?
Slocum Skewes School
Ridgefield, New Jersey

Why you are Awesome
Newcomb Middle School
Pemberton, New Jersey
New York

Meadow Character C.O.U.N.T.S. Club
Meadow Elementary School
Baldwin, New York

North Carolina

FALCON HEROES
Southwest Guilford High School
Greensboro, North Carolina

Leading with Character
Ridgewood Elementary School
Greensboro, North Carolina

Seahawk Scholars
Sumner Elementary School
Greensboro, North Carolina

The Hawk's Nest initiative
Northern Guilford Middle School
Greensboro, North Carolina

Together We Are Stronger
Alamance Elementary
Greensboro, North Carolina

Together We Are Stronger
Erwin Montessori Elementary
Greensboro, North Carolina

Wildcats on the Move
Weddington Hills Elementary School
Concord, North Carolina

Ohio

5 house character system
Imagine Leadership Academy
Akron, Ohio

Be a Buddy Not a Bully
Imagine Hill Academy
Toledo, Ohio

Celebrating Diversity through Self-Portraits
Imagine Clay Avenue Community School
Toledo, Ohio

The Grizzly Den
Imagine Groveport Community School
Groveport, Ohio

The Rising Legends of Imagine Dayton
Imagine Klepinger
Dayton, Ohio

Oklahoma

Creating Hope
Duncan Middle School
Duncan, Oklahoma

Dimes for Dishes
Sadler Arts Academy
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Emergency Responders Appreciation Week
Jefferson Elementary School
Pryor, Oklahoma

HALO Week
Duncan High School
Duncan, Oklahoma

Never Stop Improving: A Pedagogy of Reflection and Action
Muskogee Early Childhood Center
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Pennsylvania

Developing Character and Grit through Running
Oxford Valley Elementary School
Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania
Friday 15
Pennsbury High School
Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

Memorial Day Event
Pen Argyl High School
Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania

Mini-THON
East Pennsboro Area High School
Enola, Pennsylvania

Multicultural Youth Leaders Group
Pennsbury High School
Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

Not Yet
Wissahickon High School
Ambler, Pennsylvania

Rollin' with PAW-sitivity
Fallsington Elementary School
Fallsington, Pennsylvania

The Bigs and Littles Program
School District of Haverford Township
Havertown, Pennsylvania

The Community-Based Center for Sustainable Energy
Bucks County Technical High School
Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

South Carolina

Girls IN Program
Porter-Gaud School
Charleston, South Carolina

Texas

"Walk a Mile in My Shoes" Museum
Medlin Middle School
Trophy Club, Texas
Character Ed Task Force
Klein Forest High School
Spring, Texas

Culture 4 Caring
Klein ISD
Spring, Texas

EXPLORE! field trips
Cambridge Elementary
San Antonio, Texas

IDLP & Intentional ethical leadership development courses
Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets
College Station, Texas

International Fair
Weber Elementary
Houston, Texas

Medlin Cares: A Community Conference and Expo
Medlin Middle School
Trophy Club, Texas

NPE North Pointe Runners
North Pointe Elementary
Houston, Texas

Parent Academy
School of Science and Technology-Corpus Christi
Corpus Christi, Texas

Partner Dance Class
Clear Brook High School
Friendswood, Texas

Student-Led Conferences
Harmony Science Academy - El Paso
El Paso, Texas

Super Bowl of Service
Weber Elementary
Houston, Texas

The Future Leading Into the Future
Weber Elementary
Houston, Texas
Unique Week
Kay Granger Elementary
Keller, Texas

Weekly Community Building Circle
Morton Ranch Junior High
Katy, Texas

Virginia

The Hampton House Way
Stafford County Public Schools Hampton Oaks
Stafford, Virginia

Wisconsin

Cancer Boxes
Rawson Elementary School
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Cardinals Care Capsules
Necedah Area School District
Necedah, Wisconsin

Kern National Transformation Network
Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education at the Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Rockfield News
Rockfield Elementary School
Germantown, Wisconsin

WON80 Club
Necedah High School
Necedah, Wisconsin

International

Blankets
Secundaria TEC de Monterrey Campus Laguna
Torreon, Mexico

**Character Education Task Force (CETF)**
**Colegio Nueva Granada**
Bogota, Colombia

**Coaching the CNG Way - Character!**
**Colegio Nueva Granada**
Bogota, Colombia

**First Tech Challenge**
**Escuela Secundaria Bicultural Thomas Alva Edison AC**
Hermosillo, Mexico

**Generosity race**
**Secundaria Bilingüe Tec de Monterrey campus Ciudad Juárez**
Juárez, Mexico

**Learning for Life**
**Haiti Partners**
Vero Beach, Florida and Haiti

**Maintenance and Cleaning Staff Visit**
**CEL - Intercultural School**
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Sumando Niñas**
**Colegio Americano de Torreon A. C.**
Torreon, Mexico

**The Friend Seal Campaign**
**CEL - Intercultural School**
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil