

Character.org Certifies 81 State Schools and 7 Districts of Character

Washington, D.C. (January 31, 2020) —[Character.org](https://www.character.org), a national advocate and leader for character in schools, families, sports teams, and the workplace today designated 81 schools and 7 districts as [State Schools of Character](#) for 2020. In addition, one international school will receive certification. Since its inception, Character.org's Schools of Character program has positively impacted nearly 3 million students, staff, parents, and other community members. Each year, Character.org certifies schools and districts at the state level that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development which has a positive effect on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate. Schools and districts announced today will be considered for Character.org's highest distinction - National School of Character. (See the complete list of 2020 State Schools of Character below.)

"We are pleased to announce today the 2020 State Schools and Districts of Character," said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, [Character.org](https://www.character.org)'s Board Chair and Interim CEO. "These schools' representatives, including educators, parents, and students, are working together to create stronger communities that exemplify the character strengths of honesty, caring, and responsibility. We are honored to be validating their efforts and sharing their inspiring work with schools and school districts throughout the United States."

"We could not be more proud of this accomplishment and district recognition! To be named a State District of Character is the culmination of a multi-year goal that has involved every stakeholder in our community. It has been our privilege to create a culture and climate that values the development of a deliberate effort to build better citizens and a community of character," said Daniel Novak, Director of Education, West Milford Township Public Schools.

To learn more about the schools chosen today and those in the midst of their 5-year certification as State Schools of Character, please visit [Character.org](https://www.character.org). Criteria for selection are based on Character.org's [11 Principles of Character](#) 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 2020 National Schools of Character will be announced in May 2020. Character.org will honor these schools and districts at the [2020 National Forum](#) to be held Oct 1-3, 2020 in Washington, DC.

About Character.org: Founded in 1993, [Character.org](https://www.character.org) is a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. We work with schools, families, workplaces, and communities to educate, inspire, and empower people of all ages to be ethical and compassionate citizens. Our *11 Principles of Effective Character* is a comprehensive framework that helps schools improve academic achievement, student behavior, and overall positive school climate. Visit www.character.org to learn more about the National Forum and the Schools of Character program.

List of State Schools and Districts

International

COLOMBIA SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

Colegio Nueva Granada, Colombia

STATE SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

****Denotes State District of Character**

ALABAMA

Hartselle Intermediate School

Huntington Place Elementary

Vestavia Hills Elementary at Cahaba Heights

Walker Elementary School

ARIZONA

Imagine Bell Canyon

Imagine Coolidge Elementary

FLORIDA

Imagine Kissimmee Charter Academy

Imagine Schools at South Lake

GEORGIA

Rocky Branch Elementary School

ILLINOIS

**Harmony 175

KANSAS

Complete High School Maize

KENTUCKY

St. Matthews Elementary

MICHIGAN

Wattles Elementary

MINNESOTA

Cologne Academy

Waseca Jr. and Sr. High School

MISSOURI

Bayless Junior High School

Brown Elementary School

Cold Water Elementary

Concord Elementary School
Crestview Middle School
Highcroft Ridge Elementary
James E. Freer Elementary
Oak Brook Elementary School
Oakville High School
Orchard Farm Elementary School
Selvidge Middle School
Spoede Elementary School
Windsor High School
Wren Hollow Elementary School

NEW JERSEY

Aaron Decker School
Camden County Technical School
Camden County Technical Schools' Pennsauken Campus
Catherine A. Dwyer School
Central Jersey College Prep
Cherry Hill High School West
Crescent Elementary School
Dennis B. O'Brien Elementary
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School #52
**Eastern Christian School Association
Grice Middle School
Hilldale Elementary School
Horace Mann Elementary School
Jefferson School
John E. Dwyer Technology Academy
Joseph H. Brensinger PS #17
Juan Pablo Duarte- Jose Julian Marti
Kindergarten Success Academy
**Lawrence Township Public Schools
M. Scott Carpenter Elementary School
Macopin Middle School
Marcus W. Newcomb Middle School
Memorial Elementary School
Old Bridge High School
**Old Bridge Township Public Schools
Oxford Central School
Pemberton Township High School
Saint Leo the Great School
Saint Peter School
Southwood Elementary School
Thomas Paine Elementary School
Valley View School
Victor Mravlag School No. 21
Waldwick Middle School
Walter M. Schirra Elementary School

****West Milford Township Public Schools**
William A. Miller Elementary School
William F. Halloran School No. 22

NEW YORK

Bridgeport Elementary
Harvey Austin Elementary School
Jonas E. Salk Middle School
Mildred E. Strang Middle School

PENNSYLVANIA

Afton Elementary School
Bucks County Technical High School
Edgewood Elementary School
Fallsington Elementary School
M.M. Seylar Elementary School
Oxford Valley Elementary School
****Pennsbury School District**
Pennwood Middle School
Quarry Hill Elementary School
William Penn Middle School

TEXAS

Clearbrook High School
Fort Settlement Middle School
Harmony School of Innovation - Houston
Mambrino STEAM Academy
School of Science and Technology - Alamo
Woodridge Elementary Alamo Heights
Zwink Elementary

VIRGINIA

****Imagine Schools**