

Schools and Districts Applying For Recertification

(Note: Please apply for recertification in the beginning of the 5th year of your National designation to prevent a lapse in status. For example: 2016 NSOCs would reapply in the fall of 2020 for certification in 2021.)

Thank you for your continued commitment to comprehensive character development work and the School of Character process!

The recertification process is meant to:

- Ensure National Schools and Districts of Character continue using the *11 Principles Framework* as the foundation for their character development work.
- Ensure National Schools and Districts of Character serve as role models and mentors for other schools, and are engaged in other forms of outreach (e.g., becoming certified evaluators, promoting the School of Character process with colleagues, state legislators, state education organizations, community organizations, businesses etc.)
- Keep National Schools and Districts of Character connected to Character.org's national and international professional learning community focused on the field of character development.

As you complete the recertification process, please remember we have your past application(s) and reports for reviewers to reference. All applications (schools and districts) will be evaluated first at the state level.

Please focus your current application on:

- How you have used feedback from your previous report(s) to strengthen your character development work.
- What you have learned (what's worked, how you've overcome challenges).
- How your initiative has grown, what processes you've kept in place, what processes you've changed (and why).
- The impact of your work on students, staff, parents, and the broader community.
- Your data.
- Your outreach efforts.

Be sure to include specific examples of your outreach efforts and 5 years of data.

If you have any questions please contact Lori Soifer, Director, Schools of Character lori@character.org

(see next page for additional information for Districts applying for recertification)

For DISTRICTS applying for recertification:

- National District of Character applicants must have 51% or more of their individual schools designated as State or National Schools of Character with proportional representation from elementary and secondary schools. (% includes individual schools applying for certification in the same year as the district application)
- If the District has only one high school, that high school should have State or National School of Character status.
- The District will provide a list of all schools; the year(s) of recognition for each certified school, and evidence that shows non-certified schools are making progress toward their own School of Character certification.
- All non-certified schools will complete the *11 Principles* self-assessment.

District applicants should include evidence of how the district is supporting the vision of building a culture of character, including; leadership engagement, character development work embedded in strategic planning, resources dedicated district-wide (monetary and human), training, assessment, data collection and outreach to the community. If you do not meet the 51% threshold but believe your district should be considered for certification, please contact Character.org's Director of Schools.