

# Schools of Character Application

For Schools Applying for State and National Schools of Character

## Thank you for working to become a School of Character!

We hope the application and review process will be meaningful for you and your team. Here's some important information before you start.

We strongly encourage you to assemble all narratives, artifacts, and data in a Word document prior to accessing the application online.

**Save copies of all your documents and artifacts on your computer.**

**Please note:** The application will 'time out' if no activity is detected. If you are going to be away from your application for more than 10 minutes, please select 'Save for Later' to avoid losing your data and uploads. **Use n/a if you do not have information for required fields.**

When you click on "**Save for Later,**" a dialogue box opens with the URL to your application. Copy and save the URL. Use the link to access your application.

**Note:** If the background turns pink when entering your narratives, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please go back and fix immediately.

Once you have submitted your application, you will no longer be able to edit it. You will receive an email confirmation that your application has been received. Applications can not be processed without payment.

**IMPORTANT** -- If you are using a purchase order to pay for the application, please use this coupon code to bypass the payment page: **27SN4HJ5**.

For credit card payments - **DO NOT enter coupon code**. Press '**Calculate**' and then press '**Submit**' to access payment page.

### **APPLICATION FEE: \$250**

\$25 admin fee for purchase orders

*By submitting this application, we are adding you to our mailing list so you can receive important Character.org announcements, updates, and newsletters.*

If you experience problems with the application, please contact Lori Soifer at [lori@character.org](mailto:lori@character.org). Please provide your name and the name of your school.

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It is crucial you review the guidelines for re-certification so you can provide the information that will be scored.

[Review the guidelines for re-certification.](#)

Is Your School a Former National School of Character Applying for Re-certification?\*

Yes

No

\*Indicates a mandatory field.

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**School Name\***

Write school name as you wish it displayed. (Example - John C. Cooper Elementary School)

**Primary Contact Prefix (Example: Ms., Mrs., Mr., Dr.)\*****Primary Contact Name\*****Primary Contact Job Title\*****Primary Contact Email\*****Primary Contact Phone Number\*****School Address\***

**School Website**

**School Facebook Page\***

n/a if no Facebook account

**School Twitter Account\***

n/a if no Twitter account

**Principal's Prefix (Example: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.)\***

**Principal's Name\***

**Principal's Email\***

**How Did You Hear About Character.org?\***

- Social Media
- Character.org Website
- Administrator
- Character.org National Forum
- Friend/Colleague
- The 11 Principles Framework for Schools: A Guide to Cultivating a Culture of Character
- Other

**Is Your Principal Aware and Fully Supportive of your School's Character Initiative?\***

- Yes
- No

**How Are You Paying For This Application?\***

Purchase Order

Credit Card

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## PART 1 - Demographic Information

Starting Grade\*

Ending Grade\*

Student Enrollment\*

Mobility Rates\*

Percentage

Per Pupil Cost Expenditure\*

Number of Administrative Staff\*

Number of Teaching Staff\*

Number of Non-Teaching Staff\*

Teacher Turnover Rate\*

Percentage

**Number of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Lunch\***

Percentage

**\*Population Analysis**

Demographic information may not add up to 100% because some students report more than one ethnicity.

**American Indian or Native American**

Percentage

**Asian**

Percentage

**Black or African American**

Percentage

**Hispanic**

Percentage

**Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander**

Percentage

**White**

Percentage

**Other**

Percentage

**English Language Learners\***

Percentage

**Special Education Students\***

Percentage

**School Setting\***

**Type of School\***

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## Part 2: Your Character Journey

Use these questions to guide the narrative of this section:

- How and why did you begin your character initiative?
- What challenges have you faced as a school community?
- What is your character initiative trying to accomplish?
- How were parents, teachers and community members brought on board?

**Write a brief and compelling overview of your school's character journey.\***

Max 1500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

**List Your School's Core Values\***

**List three resources that have influenced your school's character journey.**

## Your Experience with Character.org

**Has anyone from your school attended the National Forum on Character?\***

Yes

No

Is your school a current State School of Character applying for National certification?\*

Yes

No

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## Part 3: Self-Assessment of the *11 Principles Framework for Schools*

The self-assessment is an opportunity to gather feedback from your stakeholders on your implementation of the 11 Principles Framework. You may invite as many stakeholders as you like, but we recommend at least one person from each of the following groups: Applicant, Administrator, Teacher, Parent, Community Member, Student\*

\*We encourage student participation if age appropriate.

### Instructions for Completing the Self-Assessment

Please share the Self-Assessment Scoring Guide and Self-Tabulating Score Sheet links provided below with each stakeholder via email with the following instructions: *Thank you for helping us evaluate our school's implementation of the 11 Principles. Please read the self-assessment tool and scoring guide and complete the self-tabulating score sheet. When you are finished, send your score sheet directly to Character.org (tamra@character.org) and let us know you have completed the self-assessment. Do not send your score sheet back to us.*

\*

[Self-Assessment Tool and Scoring Guide](#)

\*

[Self-Tabulating Score Sheet](#)

## Schools of Character Application

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### Your Implementation of the *11 Principles Framework*

The school will describe implementation of each Principle. For each Principle, there is a link to “Questions to Consider” and “Suggested Types of Evidence”. These questions and examples are taken directly from the *11 Principles Framework for Schools*. They are intended to be a resource for applicants. Schools may use other examples to demonstrate implementation. Application reviewers may also find them useful, especially when writing feedback for applicants and offering suggestions about what might strengthen an application. [The 11 Principles Framework for Schools: A Guide to Cultivating a Culture of Character](#) is available for purchase.

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## Principle 1

Core values are defined, implemented, and embedded into school culture. (Please be sure to review the definition of core values in the *11 Principles Framework*)

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 1](#)

[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 1:\***

Max 2500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages

**Upload Document #1\***

Choose files or drag here

Upload Document #2\*

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 2

The school defines "character" comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and doing.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 2](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 2:\***

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## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

**Upload Document \***

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

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## Principle 3

The school uses a comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach to character development.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 3](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 3:\***

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## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

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Upload Document #2\*

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## Principle 4

The school creates a caring community.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 4](#)

[\\*Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

Please describe your implementation of Principle 4:\*

Max 2500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

Upload Document \*

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 5

The school provides students with opportunities for moral action.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 5](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 5:\***

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## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

**Upload Document \***

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 6

The school offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 6](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 6:\***

Max 2500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

**Upload Document\***

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 7

The school fosters students' self-motivation.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 7](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 7:\***

Max 2500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

**Upload Document \***

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 8

All staff share the responsibility for developing, implementing, and modeling ethical character.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 8](#)

[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 8:\***

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## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

Upload Document\*

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 9

The school's character initiative has shared leadership and long-range support for continuous improvement.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 9](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 9:\***

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## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

**Upload Document\***

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 10

The school engages families and community as partners in the character initiative.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 10](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

Please describe your implementation of Principle 10:\*

Max 2500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload two Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

Upload Document\*

Choose files or drag here

## Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Principle 11

The school assesses its implementation of character education, its culture and climate, and the character growth of students on a regular basis.

Be sure in your narrative response and attached evidence for this Principle that you clearly demonstrate the impact of character on student academic achievement, student behavior, and school culture/climate. Be sure to provide specific quantitative and qualitative evidence. Use numbers rather than percentages when reporting changes in student behavior. The narrative and supporting evidence combined should demonstrate that your community has gathered data, reflected on it, and then acted as needed.

**NOTE:** Use actual numbers rather than percentages when reporting changes in student behavior.

[Download Questions to Consider for Principle 11](#)

\*[Download Suggested Types of Evidence](#)

\*

**Please describe your implementation of Principle 11:\***

Max 2500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

## Upload Evidence to Document Implementation

School will upload four Word or PDF documents that demonstrate the Principle. Limit documents to 1-3 pages.

Upload Document #1\*

Choose files or drag here

Upload Document #2\*

Choose files or drag here

Upload Document #3\*

Choose files or drag here

Upload Document #4\*

Choose files or drag here

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## Additional Evidence

This section is your opportunity to share anything else that illustrates your school's commitment to character. Some have created training or promotional videos, core value posters, guiding principle documents, or any other dynamic tool your school uses to enhance character development.

For PDFs and word documents, use the upload button below. For video links and/or to explain the context of your document, please share the video link in the text box below. Be sure that if students appear in the video that you have followed your School's release policies.

### Additional Evidence

Max 500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

### Upload Document

Choose files or drag here

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## Part 4: Evidence of Impact

### Academics

There is evidence that character has a strong correlation to academic achievement, student behavior, and school culture. Please provide the data from state testing and climate surveys to illustrate impact of your character initiative.

All fields must be completed. If your state uses only one term, fill in the remaining fields with n/a.

Do your students take state tests?\*

Yes

No

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## Schools of Character Application

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### Reading/Communications/Language Arts

Please input either the grade level of the test given (elementary schools) or name of the test (for secondary schools) in the first column. Then, input the **percentage** of students who passed the exam for the school year provided in each column. Enter n/a if no data.

Test Name & Grade Level*	2020 - 2021 School Year*	2019 - 2020 School Year*	2018 - 2019 School Year*	*2017-2018 *School Year*	2016 - 2017 School Year*
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**If you feel any of this information needs additional explanation, feel free to do so below.**

Max 500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

**Offer any other evidence that shows academic achievement.**

Include grades, honor roll, passing rates, % of participants taking advanced courses, etc. Max 500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

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## Mathematics

Please input either the grade level of the test given (elementary schools) or name of the test (for secondary schools) in the first column. Then, input the **percentage of students who passed** the exam for the school year provided in each column. Enter n/a if no data.

Test Name & Grade Level*	2020-2021 School Year*	2019-2020 School Year*	2018-2019 School Year*	2017-2018 School Year*	2016-2017 School Year*
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you feel any of the information above requires any additional explanation, please do so below

Max 500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

**Offer any other evidence that shows improved academics**

Max 500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

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### Behavior

#### Attendance Rate

A school's attendance rate will be the aggregate total number of days of actual attendance for all students in the school, divided by the aggregate total number of possible days of attendance for all students, based upon each student's date of enrollment, times 100, to obtain a percentage figure. Enter n/a if no data.

2020-2021\*

2019-2020\*

2018-2019\*

2017-2018\*

2016-2017\*

#### Number of Out-of-School Suspensions (no percentages)

If no data for certain years, please type n/a.

2020-2021\*

2019-2020\*

2018-2019\*

2017-2018\*

2016-2017\*

#### Number of In-School Suspensions or Placements (no percentages)

Provide the number of in-school suspensions or placements (when a student is taken out of their normal classroom routine) as a result of disciplinary action. Enter n/a if no data.

2020-2021\*

2019-2020\*

2018-2019\*

2017-2018\*

2016-2017\*

If you feel any of this information needs additional explanation, feel free to do so below.

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**Offer any other evidence that shows improved behavior.**

Max 500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

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## Part 4: Evidence of Impact

### Culture/Climate

Climate surveys are excellent ways to demonstrate growth and improvement in school culture. There are many surveys available to measure the impact of your character initiative on your school's climate and culture. Please provide 5 years of data. Put n/a if you do not have the data.

#### 2020 School Year

Number of participants who completed the survey.\*

#### Bullying is Infrequent and Students Feel Safe

What specific survey question did you ask to assess bullying?\*

Percentage of survey participants who report bullying is infrequent and students feel safe.\*

#### Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report they respect each other\*

#### Teachers and Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and students respect each other\*

## Teachers and Parents Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and parents respect each other\*

How has your school used these surveys to inform your character initiative?\*

Max 1500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

How has your school communicated this survey information with teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community?\*

Max 1500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

If you feel any of the information above requires any additional explanation, please do so below

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Culture/Climate (continued)

## 2019 School Year

Number of participants who completed the survey.\*

### Bullying is Infrequent and Students Feel Safe

What specific survey question did you ask to assess bullying?\*

Percentage of survey participants who report bullying is infrequent and students feel safe.\*

### Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report they respect each other\*

### Teachers and Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and students respect each other\*

### Teachers and Parents Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and parents respect each other\*

**How has your school communicated this survey information with teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community?\***

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Culture/Climate (continued)

## 2018 School Year

Number of participants who completed the survey.\*

### Bullying is Infrequent and Students Feel Safe

What specific survey question did you ask to assess bullying?\*

Percentage of survey participants who report bullying is infrequent and students feel safe.\*

### Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report they respect each other\*

### Teachers and Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and students respect each other\*

### Teachers and Parents Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and parents respect each other\*

**How has your school communicated this survey information with teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community?\***

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Culture/Climate (continued)

## 2017 School Year

Number of participants who completed the survey.\*

### Bullying is Infrequent and Students Feel Safe

What specific survey question did you ask to assess bullying?\*

Percentage of survey participants who report bullying is infrequent and students feel safe.\*

### Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report they respect each other\*

### Teachers and Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and students respect each other\*

### Teachers and Parents Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and parents respect each other\*

**How has your school communicated this survey information with teachers, staff, students, parents?\***

Max 1500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

**If you feel any of the information above requires any additional explanation, please do so below**

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Culture/Climate (continued)

## 2016 School Year

Number of participants who completed the survey.\*

### Bullying is Infrequent and Students Feel Safe

What specific survey question did you ask to assess bullying?\*

Percentage of survey participants who report bullying is infrequent and students feel safe.\*

### Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report they respect each other\*

### Teachers and Students Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and students respect each other\*

### Teachers and Parents Respect Each Other

What specific survey question did you ask to assess respect?\*

Percentage of participants who report teachers and parents respect each other\*

**How has your school communicated this survey information with teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community?\***

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**If you feel any of the information above requires any additional explanation, please do so below**

Max 1500 characters - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

**NEED HELP?** Contact Lori Soifer, [lori@character.org](mailto:lori@character.org). Remember, we will need your name and the name of your school.

# Schools of Character Application

For Schools Applying for State and National Schools of Character

## Part 5: Supporting Materials

### Photos

Upload five photographs of character development in action. These photos will be used for web pages, and other promotional opportunities.

Please do not include a photo of the building, posters, collages or objects.

**PHOTO TIPS:** A great photo tells a story revealing action or emotion. A picture of a few people doing something is much better than a group shot of people just smiling or looking at the camera. The photo should be in focus. Get close to your subject to take the photo. *Please, no Word or PDF documents.*

**IMPORTANT:** For each photo, add a two sentence caption. 1) 1st Sentence should describe the events in the photo without being obvious. e.g. "The sixth grade character council collected food for the homeless." 2) 2nd sentence should reveal additional information that adds context to the photo. e.g. "They raised a record 2,000 pounds of food."

#### Upload Photo #1\*

Choose files or drag here

Please explain what is happening in this photo.\*

#### Upload Photo #2\*

Choose files or drag here

Please explain what is happening in this photo.\*

**Upload Photo #3\***

Choose files or drag here

Please explain what is happening in this photo\*

**Upload Photo #4\***

Choose files or drag here

Please explain what is happening in this photo\*

**Upload Photo #5\***

Choose files or drag here

Please explain what is happening in this photo.\*

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# Schools of Character Application

For Schools Applying for State and National Schools of Character

## Part 5: Supporting Materials (continued)

### Testimonials

Supply a short quote from a teacher, non-teaching staff, a student, a parent, and a community member about the character initiative.

#### Teacher

Name\*

Position\*

**Testimonial: What have been the greatest changes in your school's culture/climate since the implementation of your character initiative?\***

Max characters 500 - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

#### Non-Teaching Staff Member

Name\*

Position\*

**How has your school's character initiative impacted you as a staff member and How are all staff members living the school's core values?\***

Max characters 500 - include If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.es spaces and punctuation.

**Student**

**Student Grade Level**

**First Name Only**

**How are all students living the school's core values?**

Max characters 500 - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

**Parent**

**Name\***

**How has your school's character initiative impacted you as a parent?\***

Max characters 500 - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

**Community Member**

**Name\***

**Position\***

### How has this school's character initiative impacted the community?\*

Max characters 500 - includes spaces and punctuation. If the background turns pink, you have exceeded your character/space limit. Please fix immediately.

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## Schools of Character Application

For Schools Applying for State and National Schools of Character

Part 5: Supporting Materials (continued)

### Promising Practices

Has this School been the recipient of one or more Promising Practices?\*

Yes

No

**IMPORTANT** -- If using a purchase order to pay for your application, use this coupon code to bypass the payment page: 27SN4HJ5. (You will receive an invoice for the application fee).

**REMINDER:** For credit card payments - **DO NOT** enter coupon code. Press 'Calculate' and then press 'Submit' to access payment page.

Enter Coupon Code for Purchase Order Payments

*By submitting this application, we are adding you to our mailing list so you can receive important Character.org announcements, updates, and newsletters.*

**NEED HELP?** Contact Lori Soifer, lori@character.org. Remember, we will need your name and the name of your school.

Payment Method