



## National Schools of Character: A Path to Excellence

- **National Schools of Character Recognition**  
The Character Education Partnership (CEP) annually recognizes schools and districts as National Schools of Character (NSOC) for demonstrating exemplary work in character education. NSOC serve as models and reach out to help others. There is no limit on the number of schools recognized each year.
- **The NSOC program is a path to school improvement through character education.**  
National Schools of Character, a concept that began as an awards competition, has evolved into a path to school improvement. Schools and districts engage in the application process to assess their programs and receive professional feedback. When they reach an exemplary level of implementation, they achieve NSOC status, which can be renewed after five years.
- **What are State Schools of Character?**  
State sponsors in over 30 states celebrate excellence on the state level by recognizing State Schools of Character (SSOC) and helping applicants progress to NSOC status. Applicants in participating states must achieve SSOC status to be eligible for review at the national level. State sponsors offer technical assistance and guide applicants to helpful resources.

Go to [www.character.org](http://www.character.org) for more information and to download CEP's *11 Principles of Effective Character Education*, a guide to self-assessment and excellence in character education.

NSOC/SSOC application guidelines will be available in May. The application deadline is December 1, 2011.



**Character Education Partnership**

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