

OKLAHOMA SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

*Helping students build competence and character for
successful careers and healthy communities*

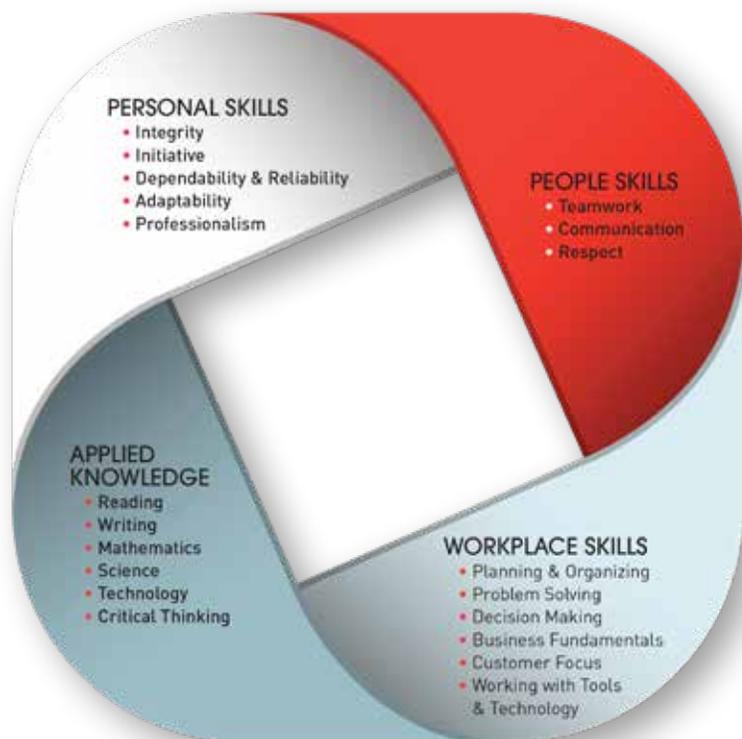
A CASE FOR CHARACTER

Among the many reasons why strong ethical values are important, there is a growing concern among Oklahoma employers that new workers have the people skills—not just the technical skills—needed to succeed.

For example, a 2016 Oklahoma Works Business Survey ranked “people skills” highest need among employability skills.

To meet this need, Oklahoma schools are invited to assess their culture, make improvements, and measure results through a proven framework called *11 Principles for Effective Character Education* developed by Character.org.

This flexible, low-cost, voluntary program is available to all types of schools—including early childhood, elementary, middle, secondary, public, private, charter, and specialty institutions.



“We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

MEANINGFUL RESULTS



Eisenhower High School Lawton

“As a professional educator of almost 40 years, I have not been part of a more meaningful experience than the Schools of Character process. Implementing the 11 Principles for Effective Character Education helped us evaluate ourselves in such a way that it elevated us to the next level in developing a true culture of good character. And the most amazing and beneficial aspect is that it is on-going. More than an award and being certified as a School of Character, the 11 Principles is a tool for continued improvement at Eisenhower.”

—Charlotte Oates, Principal

43% decrease of in-school suspensions from 2011 to 2017

Hilldale Middle School Muskogee

“The application process helped us intentionally evaluate and refine our culture to better assist students in developing work ethic, character, and skills critical for success.”

—Tracy Fenton, Counselor

Discipline referrals and out-of-school suspensions fell 63% in 3 years

DOVE Science Academy Elementary Oklahoma City

“The feedback we received resulted in strategies for enriching our students' social and emotional growth, deepening their sense of belonging, and improving our school climate.”

—Carmen Floris, Counselor

77% reduction in out-of-school suspensions

Pryor School District Pryor

“Through the 11 Principles we found the vehicle that would help us grow and mature as a district in our character education efforts. In them we had a way to evaluate and assess our culture, and we recognized we had work to do in a number of areas.”

—Don Raleigh, Superintendent

44% increase in students who feel safe at school from 2014 to 2016 at Pryor Jr. High School



Step-by-Step

1. Get Informed

Many schools begin their journey by attending the National Forum on Character Education hosted each year by Character.org (developers of *11 Principles for Effective Character Education*). Alternatively, visit OKcharacter.org to learn about the program and connect with Oklahoma educators who have changed their culture through this process.

2. Schedule Training

Schedule professional development training in the 11 Principles when you contact OKcharacter.org. Note that the full training allows time for participants to do an initial assessment of their school culture that identifies key strengths and areas to improve. Training options include:

- 1-hour Introduction
- 3-hour Overview
- 6-hour Full Training

3. Find a Champion

Every school needs a “champion” to lead the staff and teachers through the application process. This includes completing a lengthy application based on the 11 Principles, submitting evidence of each principle in action, and coordinating a handful of assessments by staff, parents, and students.



4. Submit Your Application

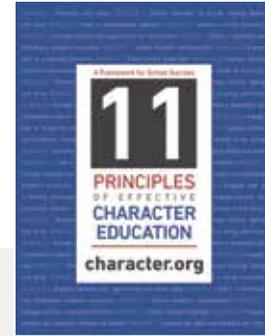
Schools can submit their applications to Character.org each fall. The state affiliate normally evaluates these applications in December, and schools receive their scores and feedback in February. Schools identified as “State Schools of Character” can submit their applications for evaluation as a “National School of Character.” (There is a nominal application fee due when submitting an application.)

5. Celebrate!

Whether schools are designated an Emerging, Honorable Mention, State, or National School of Character, schools should celebrate their success and learn from the feedback they receive. State Schools of Character maintain their status for 3 years, and National Schools of Character for 5 years.

11 Principles At-a-Glance

1. The school community promotes **core ethical and performance values** as the foundation of good character.
2. The school defines “character” comprehensively to include **thinking, feeling, and doing**.
3. The school uses a **comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach** to character development.
4. The school creates a **caring community**.
5. The school provides students with **opportunities for moral action**.
6. The school offers a **meaningful and challenging academic curriculum** that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed.
7. The school fosters students’ **self-motivation**.
8. The **school staff is an ethical learning community** that shares responsibility for character education and adheres to the same core values that guide the students.
9. The school fosters **shared leadership and long-range support** of the character education initiative.
10. The school **engages families and community members** as partners in the character-building effort.
11. The school **regularly assesses its culture and climate**, the functioning of its staff as character educators, and the extent to which its students manifest good character.



Schools of Character Framework

From curriculum integration to extra-curricular activities, from parent and community partnerships to staff development, the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education offers fundamental guidance for educators to transform their schools into successful learning environments.

[Download the PDF: **W**
www.character.org/11principles](https://www.character.org/11principles)



“Character is, in the long run, the decisive factor in the life of individuals and of nations alike.”

Teddy Roosevelt

••••• THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS! •••••



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
CHAMPION EXCELLENCE



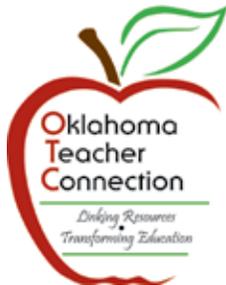
OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER



OK ETHICS



Your Insider's Edge to Winning Defense Contracts



Oklahoma
Teacher
Connection

*Linking Resources
Transforming Education*



STUDENT EDUCATION & ETHICS DEVELOPMENT

Sponsor a school in your area!

Visit OKcharacter.org to learn more.

Contact Madison Tomlinson, State Coordinator, to discuss how you can get involved.

madison@okcharacter.org • 918.577.7437 • Donate at give.OKcharacter.org

“HELPING SCHOOLS BUILD A CULTURE OF CHARACTER IS ONE OF THE GREATEST INVESTMENTS BUSINESSES CAN MAKE. DEVELOPING STUDENT CHARACTER TODAY WILL PRODUCE BETTER FAMILIES, NEIGHBORS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, EMPLOYEES, AND EMPLOYERS IN THE FUTURE.”

Tom Hill, Board Chairman of Kimray

OKLAHOMA

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OKCharacter.org