



In partnership with:

 **Character.org**



Synergy & Leadership
Exchange

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LEADING WITH CHARACTER

**MINNESOTA SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER
AND
PROMISING PRACTICES PROGRAM**



Synergy & Leadership
Exchange

Synergy & Leadership Exchange is a nonprofit organization advocating for school cultures that value academic achievement while supporting development of the whole person. We seek to provide expanded educational opportunities for students while encouraging teachers, schools and classroom environments.

CHARACTER EDUCATION: A FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

The Minnesota Schools of Character and Promising Practices program offers a path to school improvement by providing a proven framework, professional feedback and models of excellence. It is modeled after Character.org's prestigious National Schools of Character program and based on the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education.

WHAT WE OFFER

- Recognition for schools and districts with exemplary achievements in character education
- Training in the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education
- Professional development for school staff, parents and community members
- Resources, including promising practices success stories and the latest updates from Character.org

WHY SUPPORT CHARACTER EDUCATION?



Students collecting books for new babies in their community.

In schools of character, teachers and administrators work together with parents and community members to positively shape the social, emotional and character development of young people. Here students

feel safe, respected and connected to those around them, allowing them to thrive academically and socially, and are motivated to give back to their communities. Since these students are the future workforce, businesses have a vested interest in seeing them develop into responsible, principled and ethical people.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"It is our challenge to see that the character-changing experiences that our children have are positive ones. As a state representative, I have been, and will continue to be, an advocate for character education."

- Representative Dean Urdahl

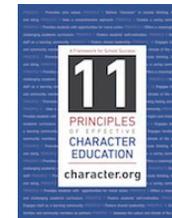
"I am here to testify that following the 11 Principles of character education will yield much more than positive results in student behavior, school climate and academic performance. Following the 11 Principles will positively transform every facet of your school or district."

- Karen Rusthoven, Founder, Community of Peace Academy
(2003 National School of Character)

11 PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE CHARACTER EDUCATION

1. Promotes core values
2. Defines "character" to include thinking, feeling and doing
3. Uses a comprehensive approach
4. Creates a caring community
5. Provides students with opportunities for moral action
6. Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum
7. Fosters students' self-motivation
8. Engages staff as a learning community
9. Fosters shared leadership
10. Engages families and community members as partners
11. Assess the culture and climate of the school

A PROVEN FRAMEWORK



The 11 Principles of Effective Character Education provide schools with a self-assessment tool to evaluate and guide their efforts.

Visit www.synergyexchange.org or www.character.org to download a copy of the 11 Principles.



For more information on Synergy & Leadership Exchange, please visit us at: www.synergyexchange.org.