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**From:** "Becky Sapora-Day" <rsapora@rci.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2007 3:02 PM  
**Subject:** [Character\_education\_network] CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK ALERT -October 2007

## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK ALERT October 2007

This Alert is a special announcement from the **CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK** online mail list. Alerts will periodically bring you information that is time sensitive. You will also continue to receive the monthly Character Education Network e-newsletter. Your name has been added to this list as a result of your completing the New Jersey Department of Education Character Education Network Online Listserv Form or because you have indicated an interest in receiving updates on character education efforts in New Jersey.

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The New Jersey Center for Character Education operates in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education under a contract with Rutgers, The State University, Center for Applied Psychology. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the New Jersey Department of Education. No official endorsement by the New Jersey Department of Education of any product, commodity, service, or enterprise mentioned herein is intended or should be inferred.

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### I. Start Writing Your NJSOC Application Today!

2008 New Jersey Schools of Character (NJSOC) – Deadline: December 3, 2007

Does your school or district have a comprehensive character education initiative? You can serve as a model for others and have the opportunity to advance to the National Schools of Character Award Program. Winners of the National School of Character Award receive \$20,000 to enhance your program and to help share your practices with other educators. The first step toward eligibility for national competition is to submit an application for the 2008 New Jersey Schools of Character Award Program.

#### APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES:

The NJSOC application and guidelines must be downloaded from the Character Education Partnership (CEP) website at: [www.character.org/nsoc](http://www.character.org/nsoc).

**REMEMBER!** Your 2008 New Jersey Schools of Character application must be postmarked no later than December 3, 2007 and sent to:

Center for Social and Character Development at RU  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Center for Applied Psychology-GSAPP  
41 Gordon Road, Suite A  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
ATTN: NJ Schools of Character

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact the Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University at 732.445.7504.

## 2. Developing Safe and Civil Schools (DSACS) Project Overview and Training Opportunities

- The Developing Safe and Civil Schools (DSACS) Project is recruiting new schools**  
 DSACS is a coordinated approach to social-emotional and character development (SECD) sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education, and it is accepting new schools now. Announcing its third year of operations, under DSACS all schools are eligible to receive, at no cost, training and support for school teams in the coordination of existing social-emotional learning (SEL) efforts in support of positive learning climates, improved academic performance, positive student development, health promotion and at-risk behavior prevention. DSACS is aligned with and can assist districts in meeting the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7 (the regulations that address code of student conduct and harassment, intimidation and bullying), New Jersey Quality Accountability Continuum (NJ QSAC), Collaborative Assessment Planning and Achievement (CAPA) Standard 4, and the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (Title IV-A of the No Child Behind Act).

DSACS is designed to build local educational resources for improving SEL in participating schools by improving the effective coordination of SEL within schools, across schools, and across school districts. DSACS staff at Rutgers University will assist your school in organizing various resources, programs and services, for efficiency and effectiveness, for strong SEL conditions. An essential part of DSACS is an anonymous survey of school climate as perceived by staff and students, given yearly. Schools receive feedback to identify areas of strength and follow up consultation and support is provided to those needing improvement. Other DSACS components include workshops for teachers to improve classroom climate and foster engaging teaching methods and linkage with professional development programs offered by most New Jersey education-related associations.

For further information, or to inquire about participation in 2007-2008, please contact Maurice J. Elias, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University and Director of the Rutgers Social-Emotional Learning Lab and the DSACS Initiative, at [MJERU@aol.com](mailto:MJERU@aol.com), and the SEL laboratory's web site at: [www.rci.rutgers.edu/~melias/](http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~melias/)

- Introductory Principles Training**  
 A Coordinated Approach to Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD)

**Wednesday, November 28, 2007 (Southern Region)**

1:00 – 4:00pm

Gloucester County Office

1492 Tanyard Road

Sewell, NJ 08080

**Wednesday, November 14, 2007 (Central Region)**

9:00 – 12:00 noon

Rutgers University

Center for Applied Psychology-ANSWER

41 Gordon Road Suite C

Piscataway, NJ 08854

**Friday, November 30, 2007 (Northern Region)**

9:00 – 12:00 noon

Parsippany Library

449 Halsey Road

Parsippany, NJ 07054

(There is no registration fee for this event.)

Under the DSACS initiative, all schools are eligible to receive, at no cost, training and support for school teams in how to coordinate existing SEL efforts in character development, positive behavior, health promotion and at-risk behavior prevention.

Register online for all events at the NJDOE Professional Development and Technical Assistance website: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>. For more information, please contact Donna Snyder at 215.284.7566 or email to: [dsrutgers@aol.com](mailto:dsrutgers@aol.com).

Funds for Developing Safe and Civil Schools were provided in full by the New Jersey Department of Education under a grant from the United States Department of Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of the No Child Left Behind Act.

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Character\_education\_network mailing list

Character\_education\_network@email.rutgers.edu

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