

**Subject:** [Character\_education\_network] CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK ALERT - New Changes to 2010 Schools of Character Application Guidelines  
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**Date:** Wed, 07 Oct 2009 15:14:11 -0400  
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## CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK ALERT #8 - OCTOBER 2009

### Prospective School or District NJSOC Applicants: Be Aware of Changes in the 2010 Schools of Character Application Guidelines!

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 Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University is funded under Title V, Part D, Subpart 3, Sec. 5431 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Funds for both the Developing Safe and Civil Schools: A Coordinated Approach for Social-Emotional and Character Development project and the Title IV-A and Unsafe School Choice Option Training and Technical Assistance Project were provided in full by a grant to the New Jersey Department of Education from the United States Department of Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. 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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### IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR NJ APPLICANTS

New Jersey schools or districts that are planning to participate in the 2010 NJ Schools of Character program should be working on their application NOW!

#### Reminder #1: **NEW** earlier Deadline

**December 1, 2009** is the deadline for applying for the 2010 New Jersey Schools of Character award.

#### Reminder #2: **NEW** Portfolio requirements

The number of pages permitted for the Portfolio has changed.

**Schools may submit only 15 page Portfolios,** and

**Districts may submit only 20 page Portfolios.**

#### Reminder #3: Where to submit your application

The State Schools of Character (SSOC) competition is a preliminary step to advancing to the National Schools of Character (NSOC). This tiered approach means that NJ schools and districts must first submit their applications directly to the **Center for Social and Character Development at Rutgers University**, which is the New Jersey SSOC program coordinator. [CLICK HERE](#) for the CSCD mailing address. (Winners of the NJSOC program may be nominated to participate at the national program level.)

#### Reminder #4: District application guidelines

In evaluating school district applications, reviewers use Guidelines for School Districts in Fostering Character Education. All district documents, including the application guidelines, **can be viewed and printed from CEP's website:** [http://www.character.org/uploads/PDFs/NSOC/Guidelines\\_for\\_Districts\\_2010.pdf](http://www.character.org/uploads/PDFs/NSOC/Guidelines_for_Districts_2010.pdf).

#### Reminder #5: The NJSOC application consists of the following:

- An **Application Cover Sheet** you complete **online at CEP's website** by entering information about your school or district.
- A page that describes the **Demographics** of your students and faculty and other Application Information.
- A **7-page Narrative** that explains how your school's character education initiative exemplifies the Standards of Effective Character Education. (Districts may submit up to 10 pages.)
- Up to a 15-page **Portfolio** that provides supporting evidence for the Narrative. (Districts may submit up to 20 pages.)
- A **Self-Assessment Score Sheet** using the Standards of Effective Character Education that shows the results of your school's or district's self-assessment.

### TO PARTICIPATE:

**Step 1: Download and review the following documents.**

[2010 National Schools of Character Application Guidelines](#)  
[Guidelines for School Districts](#) (for school districts only)  
[Character Education Quality Standards](#)

[Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education](#)

**Step 2: Complete the online Application Cover Sheet.**

Fill out the online Application Cover Sheet. Once you have completed it, press "Submit" once and then print. Attach the Cover Sheet to your application.

**Step 3: Complete the application requirements, including the Self-Assessment Score Sheet to compute your scores in Excel.**

**Step 4: Submit your application packet to the Center for Social and Character Development postmarked no later than December 1, 2009.**

[CLICK HERE](#) for our mailing address.

## Contact Information

For questions regarding the New Jersey Schools of Character program, contact CSCD at 732.445.7504, or visit <http://www.rucharakter.org/page/njsoc/>.

## Purpose of the National Schools of Character Awards Program

The purpose of the National Schools of Character (NSOC) awards program is to identify, honor, and showcase exemplars in character education and facilitate their leadership in mentoring others. The goal of the national program is to provide a variety of models of comprehensive, quality character education, representing America's diverse educational system.

Every year, the Character Education Partnership (CEP) names approximately 10 public and private schools and districts (K–12) as National Schools of Character (NSOC) for their outstanding work in character education. For more details about the NSOC/SSOC programs visit: <http://www.character.org/nsoc> or call (1-800) 988-8081 or (202) 296-7743 for further information.

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Character\_education\_network mailing list

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