

Promising Practices in Character Development

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – READ BEFORE YOU APPLY!

A Promising Practice is an ongoing specific practice or program that has been in place for at least one full school year. The following criteria are also considered:

- a. Specificity - addresses a particular aspect of your character education program.
- b. Innovativeness - either a new concept or a creative adaptation.
- c. Transferability - can be replicated by other schools.
- d. Demonstration of measurable results - immediate or over time.
- e. Significant impact - develops character and is transformative.
- f. Level of involvement - significant number of students, and/or staff, and/or parents involved.

Clarifying questions to help determine if it qualifies as a Promising Practice:

1. Is the Practice **innovative, noteworthy, or significant*** for the advancement of good character in the school and/or district? **
2. Is the Practice **proactive** for developing good character and/or decreasing poor character?
3. Does it **enhance understanding** of the 11 Principles in the school/district community?
4. Does it build **momentum** for schools that are working toward being a SOC or continue momentum for those that already are SOC?
5. Can you **explain in detail** how your Practice has innovatively enhanced your school's culture of character **and** how it is specifically tied to one (or two) of the 11 Principles?

(* The Practice is innovative, noteworthy, or significant for your school/district and to your knowledge not simply replicated "as is" from another school or district.)

(** For more insight and examples of how a Practice may be innovative, see [page 3](#).)

Be prepared for these aspects of the application:

- **Character limits** - Spaces and special characters are included in the character limits. Text that exceeds the character limits will be deleted. It may be wise to complete your application in a Word document and when completed then copy and paste it into the online application.
- While we welcome applications from outside the United States, please note that at this time we only have the ability to evaluate applications written in English. Please **respond to the narrative questions in English**.
- You will be asked to upload a **photo of your practice** in action. Please have a .jpg file ready to upload. If you do not have a photo that represents your practice, you can upload a photo of your school or organization. If your photo includes youth, be sure to follow relevant policies for releasing photos since this photo may appear on Character.org's website, in publications and in the recognition ceremony should your practice be selected.
- Please note that **contact information and overview information** entered in this application may appear on Character.org's website and in Character.org publications if your practice is selected as a National Promising Practice. Oklahoma applicants may have their materials appear in resources for OKcharacter.org.
- You may **save and return to your application** as many times as you wish until you push the "submit" button at the end of the application. Once an application has been submitted, it cannot be edited. You may, however, create new applications for other practices. A school, district or organization may submit multiple applications for different practices, **although no more than two will be selected in a given year**.

All applicants will be notified of their recognition status in mid-May 2019

OKCharacter.org



Is your Practice Unique? Innovative? Maybe!!

In the past we have said that a Promising Practice must be “unique”. Unique can mean one-of-a-kind; not done before... – and **that has become increasingly hard.**

In the past 20 plus years there have been thousands of Promising Practices recognized and unique is really hard to find. **So let’s talk about Innovative.**

If a Practice is innovative it may be a quite commonplace practice that normally wouldn't merit recognition as a Promising Practice **except** it features a new method or new approach that shows innovation.

Examples of Innovation:

- a. Having a Safety Patrol and hosting a “Lunch with Senior Citizens” are quite commonplace practices that wouldn't merit recognition as Promising Practices. **However**, a school with a heavy Hispanic/new immigrant/highly mobile population *innovatively* trained its bilingual Safety Patrol members to wear identifying badges and help new students navigate the school as well as answer their questions. Members also served as translators and guides for parents on Back-to-School Night.
- b. **Another school** tied a senior citizen lunch to its literacy objectives. Each student wrote and illustrated a story for his/her senior partner and presented it as a holiday gift at the luncheon party (“Lunch, Literacy, and Love” theme).
- c. For 8 years a **third school** has conducted a school-wide fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Association. There is nothing unique about that! But they received a Promising Practice because they tied it to a community outreach, opening the school after hours for families by doing an “80’s for Alzheimer's Dance”. It was also connected to curricular studies. During science, students studied the central nervous system and the effects of Alzheimer's. During math they broke down the percentage of people in their community, state, and the nation that will likely have the disease.

The bottom line is you may have a Promising Practice or a practice that just needs a little INNOVATION to become one.