



**STATE SCHOOLS
OF CHARACTER**

Colorado and National Schools of Character Awards Program

The Foundation for Character Development (FFCD) in Colorado and the Character Education Partnership (CEP) in Washington D.C. are pleased to offer State and National Schools of Character awards to schools and districts. The awards recognize schools in Colorado that are intentionally integrating effective character development practices based on the Character Education Partnership's Eleven Principles/Quality Standards. Being designated a State School of Character (SSOC) can be a source of pride for staff, parents, students and communities. Schools qualifying for state awards are recognized at a special event held each year at the State Capitol. In addition, qualifying schools in Colorado can advance to the CEP National Schools of Character (NSOC) competition. Approximately ten schools or districts each year that score the highest nationally are eligible for a grant, are recognized in the CEP annual national publication, and receive additional accolades at the CEP National Forum held each year in the fall.

Learn more about applying for the SSOC/NSOC awards at the FFCD website: <http://www.ffcd.us> and the CEP's website: <http://www.character.org>. The deadline is early December 2010. For further information and technical assistance in applying please contact Jim Olmstead, Foundation for Character Development at 303-410-1522 or jimolm@comcast.net

Benefits of Implementing the CEP Quality Standards Process Framework

The process...

1. Helps retain excellent teachers that will attract parents and students. Studies have shown that a positive school climate is the most important factor in retaining excellent teachers.
2. Provides an opportunity for staff to be reflective regarding instructional strategies and behaviors that impact student achievement utilizing a proven framework.
3. When implemented effectively, the practices outlined in the CEP's Quality Standards have been proven to reduce disciplinary referrals so that more time is spent on teaching and learning.
4. Provides recognition locally and nationally for your school as a learning community that is focused on the practical virtues, skills, and behaviors that will better prepare students for post secondary training and the workplace.