



**2023 State School of Character
Score Sheet**

Full School Name: Moss School

Reviewer Name: Cindy Dacey and Ann Wilmot

Date: 01/07/2023

Scale: 4=Exemplary, 3=Good, 2=Developing, 1=Lacking Evidence

When determining the rating of each Principle, the evaluator will consider the following four questions:

1. How many 11 Principles Key Indicators are identified in the item?
2. Are practices guided by data, 11 Principles Key Indicators, or other relevant literature?
3. Is there evidence (qualitative or quantitative) of positive outcomes resulting from implementation of the Principle?
4. What percent of the school population is affected or engaged with the activities of this Principle?

	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	Item 4	Average
Principle #1	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #2	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #3	4	4	3		3.67
Principle #4	4	4	4	4	4.00
Principle #5	4	4	3		3.67
Principle #6	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #7	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #8	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #9	4	4	4		4.00
Principle #10	4	4	3		3.67
Principle #11	4	3	3	3	3.25
Total (average of each line divided by 11)					3.8

Strengths:

Moss School has done remarkable work in developing a comprehensive character initiative. All stakeholders (administration, teachers, and families) were involved in selecting and implementing the core values of Community, Honesty, Perseverance, Empathy and Respect. The strategies of self-questioning and problem-solving are a national example of a Promising Practice of Performance values for younger students. Training is provided for all teachers and para-professionals; and since the initial SSOC designation in 2018, the Moss staff is now turn-keying their approach for staff at other schools. In fact, their work has been published in Mr. Rick Cohen's book *The Metacognitive Student*. The school's character team has incorporated suggestions made from their NSOC Site Evaluation feedback to address extrinsic vs. intrinsic motivation and service learning. The Moss staff's expertise in understanding and adapting the *11 Principles Framework* to the developmental level of three, four and five year old children is exemplary. The Problem-Solving approach is embedded in all areas of the half day program and simply but beautifully meets all of the criteria for a State School of Character.

Areas of Growth/Suggestions:

While we are certain that character is infused in all aspects of the students' half day program **(P3.3)**, the evaluators would love to see and hear more about how the students use problem-solving at playtime, in the bus line, and other settings during the day. It is evident that reflection takes place during Morning Meeting and at other times of the day in written form, we would like to see in writing or through pictures more documentation of the students' reflection **(P 2, 5.3)**. Service learning is an area that challenges many schools; you have learned to tie it to the curriculum, allow student choice in projects, and to reflect on what the students learn at a young age. Other schools could benefit from your knowledge and specific examples. **(P5)** Another area to explore is how to bring in community organizations to enhance your character initiative and to provide ties to community activities and events **(P10.3)**. These can include, but are not limited to 4-H, Miracle League, local businesses and community leaders. Moss School has, no doubt, been affected by the pandemic over the last 3 years. Schools have operated in survival mode for much of that time, and have been limited in their ability to provide time to reflect on their character initiatives and make desired changes. This is not the case at Moss School as it is evident that this character initiative has thrived. Consider adding a written action plan for improvement to show the progress made in the character initiative. **(P11)**

Possible Promising Practice(s):

Service Learning Projects for Younger (Pre-K to K) Students with Reflection pages

State Recognition: State School of Character



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2023

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CHARACTER.ORG RECOGNIZES 73 STATE-LEVEL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER AND 2 DISTRICTS OF CHARACTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 27, 2023) -- Character.org, a national advocate and leader for character, today designated 73 state-level Schools of Character and 2 Districts of Character for 2023. (See below for the complete list of 2023 State Schools of Character.)

Character.org certifies schools and districts each year at the state level that have developed and implemented an intentional, proactive, and comprehensive approach that embeds character into all aspects of the school life. Schools and districts announced today will be considered for Character.org's highest distinction - National School of Character. Since its inception, Character.org's Schools of Character program has positively impacted nearly three million students, staff, parents, and other community members.

"We are excited to announce today the 2023 State Schools and Districts of Character," said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, Character.org's President. "Each of these schools and districts have put into place an initiative that equips and empowers their staff to reinforce and model a range of positive core values that will shape and form the hearts, minds, and choices of their students." To learn more about the schools chosen today, please visit [Character.org](https://www.character.org).

Criteria for selection are based on Character.org's [11 Principles Framework for](#)

[Schools: A Guide to Cultivating a Culture of Character](#). The Framework includes key indicators on creating a caring school community where everyone feels they belong, providing students with opportunities to practice and reflect on their character strengths, and engaging families and communities as partners in the school's character initiative.

The 2023 National Schools of Character will be announced in May 2023 and honored at our 30th Anniversary International Forum next fall in Washington D.C. Learn more about the [International Forum](#) on our website.

ABOUT CHARACTER.ORG: Character.org is a worldwide network of educators, researchers, and civic leaders that empowers people of all ages to practice and model the character strengths and core values that shape the hearts, minds and choices of every person. Founded in 1993 and formerly known as the Character Education Partnership, Character.org is widely known for our *11 Principles Framework for Schools: A Guide to Cultivating a Culture of Character*. The organization's vision is to be the global leader and voice for developing character in families, schools, and organizations.

For more information, visit [Character.org](#), subscribe to our free weekly [newsletter](#), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

List of 2023 State Schools and Districts of Character

**denotes District of Character

Alabama:

Northside Middle School
Oakdale Elementary School
Skyland Elementary School
University Charter School

Arizona:

Imagine East Mesa

Georgia:

Liberty Elementary School
Webb Bridge Middle School

Florida:

Carrollwood Day School
River City Science Academy Innovation

Kansas:

Beloit Jr./Sr. High School

Michigan:

Beverly Elementary School
Birmingham Covington School
Greenfield Elementary School
Leonard Elementary School

Missouri:

**Bayless School District
Chesterfield Elementary
Hancock Place Middle School
Hawk Point Elementary School
Independence Elementary School
Kentucky Trail Elementary
LaSalle Springs Middle School
Marquette High School
Mehlville High School
Parkway Central Middle School
Parkway Early Childhood Center
Parkway South Middle School
Wild Horse Elementary School
Windsor Elementary School

New Jersey:

Applegarth Elementary School
Child Family Center
E. Raymond Appleby Elementary School
Fort Dix Elementary School
Franklin Elementary School
**Hanover Park Regional High School District
Hilltop Elementary School
Howard L. Emmons Elementary School
Jefferson Elementary School
Joseph S. Stackhouse Elementary School

Kennedy Elementary School
Lakeside Middle School
Lalor Elementary School
Lincoln Roosevelt School
Madison Park Elementary School
Millville High School
Moss School
Nixon Elementary School
Pemberton Early Childhood Education Center
RM Bacon Elementary School
Samuel T. Busansky Elementary School
Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
Unity Charter School
Valleyview Middle School

New York:

Palmyra Macedon Middle School
PS 94Q- David D Porter School
William H. Barton Intermediate School

Ohio:

Imagine Bella Academy of Excellence
Imagine Great Western Academy

Oklahoma:

DOVE School of Discovery
Dove Science Academy Middle School Oklahoma City

Pennsylvania:

East Pennsboro Area High School

Texas:

Epps Island Elementary
Harmony School of Achievement-Houston
Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo
Harmony School of Exploration-Houston
Harmony School of Fine Arts & Technology-Houston
Harmony School of Innovation-Dallas
Harmony School of Science-El Paso
Harmony Science Academy-Dallas High

Harmony Science Academy-El Paso
Harmony Science Academy-Houston
Kay Granger Elementary School
Lonnie B. Keller Middle School
McAuliffe Elementary School
North Pointe Elementary School
School of Science and Technology Northwest