

# Minnesota Promising Practices Awards 2010 Application Guidelines



NATIONAL SCHOOLS  
OF CHARACTER

The Center for Academic Excellence is sponsoring **Promising Practices Awards in 2010** to recognize schools in Minnesota that have developed and implemented a practice that promotes character development in their schools. This program is modeled after the National Schools of Character® awards program, which gives Promising Practices awards to schools and districts in the United States and elsewhere for implementing *unique* and *specific* strategies in character education.

If your school or district has developed and successfully implemented a *unique* character education practice, we encourage you to apply for a Promising Practices award. We are not looking for a description of your entire character education initiative, but rather for a *specific* practice or aspect of your program that other schools may learn from and even replicate. Applicants are encouraged to read samples of past Promising Practices on CEP's website before applying.

## State Recognition

A Blue-Ribbon Panel will select those practices deemed to qualify as "Promising Practices." Those selected will be honored at the Minnesota Schools of Character and Promising Practice Award Ceremony in May 2010. Practices selected will be featured on the Center for Academic Excellence website: [www.mncae.org](http://www.mncae.org), as an example to assist other schools in the state.

## How to Apply

**All applications must be emailed and mailed with the application cover sheet by March 1, 2010, to the Center for Academic Excellence: [cae@mncae.org](mailto:cae@mncae.org); CAE, 2075 Lookout Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003. Questions - call 507-389-2461.** If you need assistance applying online, please call 507-389-2461.

Your school or district may apply for both the Minnesota Promising Practice and the National Promising Practice Awards 2010. The application is the same, **but you must first submit your application to Minnesota.** If your Promising Practice meets state and national criteria you will be asked to submit it for consideration at the national level. **NOTE: If your application is approved for submission to the 2010 National Promising Practices Awards it must be placed online through the Character Education Partnership (CEP) by March 15, 2010: [www.character.org/nsoc](http://www.character.org/nsoc). If you have a problem applying online, please call 202-296-7743, ext. 19 for assistance.**

When applying, you will be prompted to enter the following. Accuracy is important.

- basic information about you and your school or district
- demographic information
- the name of your practice as you wish for it to appear
- the date you began your practice
- information about how you learned about this award

Next, you will be asked to attach your response to the three **Narrative Questions**. Your response should be a double-spaced Word document no more than two pages in length (total). Use one-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. You should have your response prepared before you begin the online application process so you can attach it when prompted. CEP's *Standards of Effective Character Education* can be a helpful tool in responding to the Narrative Questions. This document can be accessed at CEP's website.

If your practice is selected nationally, CEP will ask you to send a digital photo showing your practice in action. Follow your district guidelines in obtaining permission to use the photo.

Describe only one practice in your application. If you wish to submit more than one practice for consideration, complete a separate online application for each. Note that CEP does not award more than two Promising Practices to any one school or district in one year.

Notifications about the awards are made in May.

## Narrative Questions

### 1 What is the practice and how have you implemented it in your school or district?

Provide a detailed description of a *unique* and *specific* practice already taking place in your school or district. Give explicit examples of the practice when appropriate. Include information about:

- rationale, goals, and objectives
- preparation procedures (staff development and student training)
- number of people involved (staff, students, parents, and community members)
- how often the practice occurs
- bibliographic reference information, if you mention commercial programs or materials

### 2 How does the specific practice contribute to character development?

How does the practice help students develop good character? Are there activities for reflection and feedback from students and staff?

### 3 What impact is the practice having on students in your school or district?

What evidence do you have that students have acquired positive skills, attitudes, or behaviors as a result of this practice? How have you measured success? What student, staff, parent, or community member testimonials speak to the effectiveness of the practice in promoting positive character development? Please include summaries of any data or survey information that attest to the practice's effectiveness.



**Applications due March 1, 2010**