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Press Release

Six NJ schools earn three-year designation as 2012 New Jersey Schools of Character



The New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development recognizes New Jersey schools for character initiatives that yield positive results in student behavior and academic performance.

Mullica Hill, NJ, January 29, 2012: The New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development is pleased to recognize the six New Jersey schools that have met the high standards required for designation as **2012 New Jersey Schools of Character**. These schools are: Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, Lawrence Township Public School, Mercer County; Lawrenceville Elementary School, Lawrence Township Public Schools, Mercer County; North Boulevard School, Pequannock Township School District, Morris County; Pauline J. Petway Elementary School, Vineland Public School District, Cumberland County; Richard Stockton Elementary School, Cherry Hill Public Schools, Camden County; and Slackwood Elementary School, Lawrence Township Public Schools, Mercer County. These schools will hold the NJSOC designation for three years, 2012-2015 and share their successes through outreach efforts hosted by the NJASECD's new Regional Networking Centers.

Also receiving recognition are **Honorable Mention Schools**: Berlin Community School, Berlin Borough School District, Camden County; Gibbsboro School, Gibbsboro School District, Camden County; James A. McDivitt Elementary School, Old Bridge Township Public Schools, Middlesex County; Leroy Gordon Cooper Elementary School, Old Bridge Township Public Schools, Middlesex County; Oxford Central School, Oxford Central School District, Warren County; Pennsauken Campus of Camden County Technical Schools, Camden County; Reynolds

For Release 9 a.m. EDT, February 1, 2012

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Middle School, Hamilton Township School District, Mercer County. **Emerging School** status goes to East Hanover Middle School, East Hanover School District, Morris County and Hanover Park High School District, Morris County.

Modeled after the National Schools of Character awards program sponsored by the Character Education Partnership (CEP) in Washington, D.C., the NJSOC program recognizes schools and districts in NJ that excel in exemplifying CEP's *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education* and demonstrate an outstanding character education initiative that yields positive results in student behavior, school climate, and academic performance. The 2012 New Jersey Schools of Character will advance to the national level for review.

“Schools of character are places that bring out the best in everyone – students, staff, parents and community members,” said CEP's National Schools of Character Director Lara Maupin. “These schools went through a very rigorous evaluation process and we are thrilled to recognize their achievements.”

Formal acknowledgement along with a recognition ceremony for all 15 schools participating in the 2012 NJSOC program will take place at the 5th Annual New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development Conference entitled "*Positive School Climate: The Antidote to Bullying*". The conference will be held at Rider University in Lawrence, NJ on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 8:00am until 3:30pm (Recognition Ceremony tentatively scheduled for 2:40 pm). For more information regarding the recognition ceremony or any part of the New Jersey Schools of Character process, please contact NJSOC co-chairs Nina Kempf or Becky Sapora-Day via email at: NJSOC12@gmail.com or visit our website at <http://njasecd.org/>.