

Wisconsin Promising Practices Awards 2008 Application Guidelines



The Wisconsin Character Education Partnership is sponsoring **Promising Practices Awards in 2008** to recognize schools in Wisconsin 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* practice, we encourage you to apply for a Promising Practices award. We are not looking for a description of your whole character education program, but rather for a *specific* practice or aspect of your program that other schools may learn from and even replicate. To learn about the 2007 Wisconsin Promising Practice winners go to our website at www.wicharacter.org. You may also want to read samples of past national Promising Practices in CEP's annual NSOC books or online by checking the CEP website www.character.org and go to the Promising Practices Home Page.

State Recognition

A Blue-Ribbon Panel will select those practices that are deemed to qualify as Promising Practices. Those selected will be honored at the 4th Annual Character Education Conference (held in Waukesha, June 23-26, 2008).

Scholarships to attend the 4th Annual Character Education Conference may be awarded to representatives of the schools receiving honors. Practices selected will be featured on the Wisconsin Character Education Partnership website, www.wicharacter.org. Your school's promising practice will be held as a best practice to light the way for other schools in the state.

How to Apply

All applications must be submitted by March 1, 2008 by mail to Wisconsin Character Education Partnership (WCEP), PMB 104, P.O. Box 17900, Milwaukee, WI 53217, or via email to wicharacter@yahoo.com. If you have any questions please contact us at wicharacter@yahoo.com or contact pamwoodard@yahoo.com.

Your school or district can apply for both the Wisconsin Promising Practices and the National Promising Practices Awards 2008. The application is the same for both, but you must submit a separate application to each entity by the date specified. **NOTE Those schools wishing to apply for the National Promising Practices Awards 2007 through Character Education Partnership, the deadline for that application is March 15, 2007.** To be considered for the National award, you must apply online to CEP by March 15th, 2007, at CEP's website: www.character.org/nsoc. If you have a problem applying online, please call 202-296-7743, ext. 13 for assistance.

To apply for the Wisconsin Promising Practices Awards, you will need to complete the Wisconsin Character Education Partnership Promising Practices Awards Application Cover Sheet. Next, you will be asked to attach your response to the three **Narrative Questions**. Your response should be a double-spaced, one-sided Word document no more than two pages in length (total). Use one-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. CEP's *Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education™* and *Character Education Quality Standards* can be helpful tools in responding to the Narrative Questions. These documents can be downloaded from CEP's website.

If your practice is selected, we 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 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. 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 effectiveness of the practice.



Applications due March 1, 2008