



NJASECD Northern Region Meeting – Lakeview School, Denville, NJ – October 16, 2024

Representatives from schools across the northern region of New Jersey met together at Lakeview School in Denville, NJ on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 for a morning of sharing and networking which focused on the New Jersey Schools of Character Program. The schools who attended were engaged in various stages of their school improvement process based on the “11 Principles Framework” which guides schools through a comprehensive set of steps to address character strengths, social-emotional competencies, and school culture and climate. Their improvement efforts can lead to recognition as State and National Schools of Character.



The New Jersey State program is led by the New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional, and Character Development (NJASECD) which is affiliated with Character.org, the national organization which sponsors the program.

Doug Stech (Northern Region Coordinator) and Deb Minieri and Maribeth Hall (school counselors at Lakeview) hosted the event and presented information and advice to those in attendance based on their

experience leading schools to recognition as Schools of Character and their service as scorers and evaluators in the process. Following a short presentation, participants could choose from a variety of stations with more focused themes and information. Some examples included information on the revised “11 Principles,” developing promising practice ideas and applications, educator wellness and self-care, among others. Dr. William Trusheim and Mary Reinhold, officers of NJASECD, also shared their thoughts at the meeting, speaking about the importance of this work in terms of benefits to schools and their entire community.



Participants left the meeting energized to continue to do the work necessary to meet the criteria set down by the “11 Principles” and to capture this work in their Schools of Character applications which are due next month. We are confident that the schools represented are well on their way in their character journey. We look forward to honoring their achievements at our annual conference at Rider University in May 2025!

A special thanks goes out to the administration of Lakeview School for graciously hosting this event for NJASECD!