Many folks have been busy working on their character initiative for some time and have been using the old *Principles* as a guide. Others, working on recertification, feel lost as they try fitting all they have achieved in five years into a new format. Relax, take a deep breath - just think of the revised *11 Principles* as another way of making your character initiative shine. Basically, the revised Principles reaffirm the old ones, and they recommend that you emphasize these basic tenets, which you also will address in your application.

- Your core value should be the heartbeat of your school. Examine them annually to see if still relevant.
- Have a balance of core values, representing moral, performance, intellectual and civic character.
- Work to see that everyone understands, models, practices your Core Values – school leaders, teachers, staff, students, parents, community. Your school gives them time to reflect on their growth.
- Developing character MUST BE **intentional**; show your specific plans, practices to reach your goals.
- Use multiple ways to assess your plans and practices so you can shape the next steps of your journey.

THE OLD MEET THE NEW: FOLLOW THIS CHART TO SEE SIMILARITIES, DIFFERENCES IN THE VERSIONS

NEW PRINCIPLE WORDING	COMPARISON, CONVERGENCE OF THE TWO VERSIONS
1. A set of core values is selected, defined, embedded, and modeled throughout your school culture	**Basically, 1.1. 1.2. 1.3 are similar,** but these changes are needed: **1.1**: Add 4 character domains – moral, performance, intellectual, civic; Describe Core Values (CV) in behavioral terms **(old 1.3)** **1.3**: Add Artifacts showing CV as the heartbeat of the school.
2. The school develops implements an intentional, proactive, comprehensive approach that embeds character everywhere.	**Principles 2 and 3 are switched: Look to old P. 3 for proof for new 2/vice-versa.** **2.1;** Add school's char. strengths; challenges. Add: dealing with hidden curriculum. **2.2: Old 2.1, 2.2;** Make certain to accent comprehensive plan is "written." **2.3: Old 8.3 basically** **2.4**: Old 3.1
3. Every student understands, cares about, and practices the core values embedded in the school community.	**3.1: Old 2.1.** Add how students explain all stakeholders model core values. **3.2: Old 2.2** Add student explaining core value they wish to improve. **3.3: Old 2.3**
4. The school creates a caring community where everyone feels they belong.	**4.1 Basically same as Old 4.1** **4.2 Basically same as Old 4.2** **4.3 Basically same as Old 4.3** **No 4.4 in New Version; Old 4.4 becomes 5.4 in New Version**
5. The school provides students with opportunities to shape and form their moral compass.	**5.1 Basically Old 5.2 – Service Learning** **5.2 Basically Old 5.3** but it's Community Service, not Service Learning **5.3 Similar to old 5.1**, but it's Academic Integrity getting its own section. **5.4 Old 4.4** about standing up to peer mistreatment.
6. The school offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that encourages all students to develop their character strengths.	**6.1 A combo of Old 2.2 and 3.2** **6.2 Basically same as Old 6.3** **6.3 NEW – Some of old 6.1** but add Intellectual Character characteristics **6.4 Basically Old 6.2**

7. The school fosters character by encouraging students to "do the right thing" for intrinsic rather than extrinsic reasons.	**7.1 Basically Old 7.1** with emphasis on students explaining "moral compass." **7.2 Basically Old 7.2** with emphasis on reflection/restorative practices in discipline. **7.3 Combination of Old 7.3 and 9.3** -Student voice in Character Initiative
8. The school embraces shared leadership as a critical path to deepening its character initiative.	**Principles 8 and 9 are switched. Look to old P. 9 for proof for new 8/vice-versa.** **8.1 is basically Old 9.1 –** Add principal modeling core values **8.2 is basically Old 9.2** **8.3 is basically old 9.3**
9. All staff share the responsibility to implement and reinforce the school's character initiative.	**9.1 is basically Old 8.2** **9.2 is basically Old 8.1** with added concept of holding each other accountable**.** **9.3 is somewhat Old 8.3** with emphasis on PD and reflection
10. Families and the community are integral partners in the school's character initiative.	**10.1 is basically Old 10.1** **10.2 is basically Old 10.2** **10.3 is basically Old 10.3**
11. The school annually assesses the progress of its character initiative & makes changes based on data.	**11.1 is basically Old 11.1** **11.2 is basically Old 11.2** **11.3 is changed:** Add action plan and artifacts that show annual review/ data review/ results communicated to stakeholders **11.4 is changed.** Assesses if staff/students are aligning their actions/choices with core values; their setting character goals & self-assessment