Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education

**Principle 1**
Promotes core ethical values and supportive performance values as the foundation of good character.

**Principle 2**
Defines "character" comprehensively to include thinking, feeling, and behavior.

**Principle 3**
Uses a comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach to character development.

**Principle 4**
Creates a caring school community.

**Principle 5**
Provides students with opportunities for moral action.

**Principle 6**
Includes a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners, develops their character, and helps them to succeed.

**Principle 7**
Strives to foster students' self-motivation.

**Principle 8**
Engages the school staff as a learning and moral community that shares responsibility for character education and attempts to adhere to the same core values that guide the education of students.

**Principle 9**
Fosters shared moral leadership and long range support of the character education initiative.

**Principle 10**
Engages families and community members as partners in the character-building effort.

**Principle 11**
Evaluates the character of the school, the school staff's functioning as character educators, and the extent to which students manifest good character.