

By the Council for Lifelong Learning and Representative
Mack

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to required instruction in the
3 public schools; amending s. 233.061, F.S.;
4 providing that the character-development
5 program shall be required instruction in
6 kindergarten through grade 12; requiring
7 curriculum development or adoption and
8 approval; amending s. 233.0612, F.S., relating
9 to authorized instruction, to conform;
10 providing effective dates.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
14 Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (2) of section
15 233.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 233.061 Required instruction.--

17 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
18 schools, subject to the rules and regulations of the
19 commissioner, the state board, and the school board, shall
20 teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and
21 materials required, following the prescribed courses of study,
22 and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

23 (q) A character-development program in the elementary
24 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts. Such
25 a program must be secular in nature and must stress such
26 character qualities as attentiveness, patience, and
27 initiative. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the
28 character-development program shall be required in
29 kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school board
30 shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the
31 character-development program which shall be submitted to the

1 Department of Education for approval. The
2 character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of
3 patriotism, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect,
4 honesty, self-control, tolerance, and cooperation.

5 Section 2. Effective July 1, 2004, subsection (1) of
6 section 233.0612, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 233.0612 Authorized instruction.--Each school district
8 may provide students with programs and instruction at the
9 appropriate grade levels in areas including, but not limited
10 to, the following:

11 (1) ~~Character development, Ethics, and law education.~~

12 Section 3. Except as otherwise provided herein, this
13 act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31