

By Senator Wilson

33-1145-05

See HB 425

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to required instruction in the public schools; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the development and adoption of character-development curricula by district school boards; revising components of the curricula; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.--

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

(q) A character-development program in the elementary schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which is secular in nature and stresses such character qualities as attentiveness, patience, and initiative. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that shall be submitted to the department for approval. A curriculum developed or adopted by a district school board and approved by the department may be shared with other district school boards for purpose of compliance with this paragraph. Additionally, the department

1 may develop a model character-development curriculum to enable
2 district school boards to meet the requirements of this
3 paragraph. The character-development curriculum shall define
4 character to include its cognitive, emotional, and behavioral
5 dimensions; stress the qualities of patriotism,
6 responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty,
7 self-control, tolerance, and cooperation; provide for an
8 orderly learning environment to enable students to make
9 positive lifestyle choices and avoid unhealthy behavior;
10 create a positive moral culture in the classroom and the
11 school; and develop moral character and civic virtue in
12 students as one means of creating a responsible and
13 compassionate society.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.
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