



1 ~~Education and the district school board,~~ shall teach  
2 efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials  
3 required that meet the highest standards for professionalism  
4 and historic accuracy, following the prescribed courses of  
5 study, and employing approved methods of instruction, the  
6 following:

7 (a) The history and content of the Declaration of  
8 Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law,  
9 self-evident truth, equality of all persons, limited  
10 government, popular sovereignty, and God-given, inalienable  
11 rights of life, liberty, and property, and how it forms the  
12 philosophical foundation of our government.

13 (b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of  
14 the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and  
15 amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments  
16 that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution  
17 provides the structure of our government.

18 (c) The history of the state and the State  
19 Constitution.

20 (d)(b) The most important arguments in support of  
21 adopting our republican form of government, as they are  
22 embodied in the most important of the Federalist Papers.

23 (e) ~~The essentials of the United States Constitution~~  
24 ~~and how it provides the structure of our government.~~

25 (e)(d) Flag education, including proper flag display  
26 and flag salute.

27 (f)(e) The elements of United States civil government,  
28 including the primary functions of and interrelationships  
29 between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties,  
30 municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

31

1           ~~(g)~~ The history of the United States, including the  
2 period of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence,  
3 the Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its  
4 present boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights  
5 movement to the present. The history of the United States  
6 shall be taught as genuine history and shall not follow the  
7 revisionist or postmodernist viewpoints of relative truth.  
8 American history shall be viewed as factual, not as  
9 constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, teachable, and  
10 testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation  
11 based largely on the universal principles stated in the  
12 Declaration of Independence.

13           ~~(h)~~~~(f)~~ The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the  
14 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other  
15 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of  
16 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an  
17 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the  
18 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an  
19 examination of what it means to be a responsible and  
20 respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance  
21 of racial, ethnic, and religious diversity in a pluralistic  
22 society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and  
23 institutions.

24           ~~(i)~~~~(g)~~ The history of African Americans, including the  
25 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that  
26 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the  
27 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of  
28 African Americans to society.

29           ~~(j)~~~~(h)~~ The elementary principles of agriculture.  
30  
31

1           ~~(k)(i)~~ The true effects of all alcoholic and  
2 intoxicating liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the  
3 human body and mind.

4           ~~(l)(j)~~ Kindness to animals.

5           ~~(k)~~ ~~The history of the state.~~

6           ~~(m)(l)~~ The conservation of natural resources.

7           ~~(n)(m)~~ Comprehensive health education that addresses  
8 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental  
9 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of  
10 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the  
11 consequences of teenage pregnancy; ~~mental and emotional~~  
12 ~~health~~; injury prevention and safety; nutrition; personal  
13 health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use  
14 and abuse.

15           ~~(o)(n)~~ Such additional materials, subjects, courses,  
16 or fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules  
17 of the State Board of Education and the district school board  
18 in fulfilling the requirements of law.

19           ~~(p)(o)~~ The study of Hispanic contributions to the  
20 United States.

21           ~~(q)(p)~~ The study of women's contributions to the  
22 United States.

23           (r) The nature and importance of free enterprise to  
24 the United States economy.

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

1 for the character-development program that shall be submitted  
2 to the department for approval. The character-development  
3 curriculum shall stress the qualities of patriotism;;  
4 responsibility;; citizenship; the Golden Rule; kindness;;  
5 respect for authority, human life, liberty, and personal  
6 property; honesty; abstinence until marriage; charity;;  
7 self-control;; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance;; and  
8 cooperation.

9       ~~(t)(r)~~ In order to encourage patriotism, the  
10 sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country and  
11 protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must  
12 occur on or before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of  
13 the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance  
14 of local veterans when practicable.

15  
16 Standards and assessments adopted by the State Board of  
17 Education shall be based on, and conform to, the requirements  
18 of this subsection.

19       (3) Each district school board shall require that:

20       (a) United States history, including the provisions of  
21 paragraphs (2)(a)-(g), be taught in at least two grade levels  
22 in elementary school, two grade levels in middle school, and  
23 two grade levels in high school.

24       (b) High school students achieve a grade of 75 percent  
25 or higher on a test to ensure that they understand the  
26 contents, meaning, and significance of the Declaration of  
27 Independence and the Constitution of the United States and the  
28 amendments thereto.

29       ~~(4)(3)~~ Any student whose parent makes written request  
30 to the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of  
31 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its

1 symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted  
2 may not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course  
3 descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not  
4 interfere with the local determination of appropriate  
5 curriculum which reflects local values and concerns.

6 Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section  
7 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 1003.43 General requirements for high school  
9 graduation.--

10 (1) Graduation requires successful completion of  
11 either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12  
12 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits  
13 shall be distributed as follows:

14 (g) One-half credit in American government, including  
15 study of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution  
16 of the United States. For students entering the 9th grade in  
17 the 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, the study of Florida  
18 government, including study of the State Constitution, the  
19 three branches of state government, and municipal and county  
20 government, shall be included as part of the required study of  
21 American government.

22  
23 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit  
24 in social studies and one-half elective credit for student  
25 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service  
26 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of  
27 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in  
28 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for  
29 service provided as a result of court action. District school  
30 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer  
31 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the

1 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving  
2 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the  
3 Course Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is  
4 taken below the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school  
5 graduation requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award  
6 requirements as specified in a district school board's student  
7 progression plan. A student shall be granted credit toward  
8 meeting the requirements of this subsection for equivalent  
9 courses, as identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken  
10 through dual enrollment.

11 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section  
12 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of  
14 public school students must receive accurate and timely  
15 information regarding their child's academic progress and must  
16 be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in  
17 school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous  
18 statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

19 (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--

20 (d) Reproductive health and disease education.--A  
21 public school student whose parent makes written request to  
22 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of  
23 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in  
24 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.42(4)~~(3)~~.

25 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.  
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