

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to required instruction in the public
 3 schools; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising provisions
 4 relating to the development and adoption of character-
 5 development curricula by district school boards; revising
 6 components of the curricula; providing an effective date.

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

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 10 Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (2) of section
 11 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 1003.42 Required instruction.--

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

19 (q) A character-development program in the elementary
 20 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
 21 is secular in nature and stresses such character qualities as
 22 attentiveness, patience, and initiative. Beginning in school
 23 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be
 24 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school
 25 board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-
 26 development program that shall be submitted to the department
 27 for approval. A curriculum developed or adopted by a district
 28 school board and approved by the department may be shared with

29 other district school boards for purpose of compliance with this
30 paragraph. Additionally, the department may develop a model
31 character-development curriculum to enable district school
32 boards to meet the requirements of this paragraph. The
33 character-development curriculum shall define character to
34 include its cognitive, emotional, and behavioral dimensions;
35 stress the qualities of patriotism, responsibility, citizenship,
36 kindness, respect, honesty, self-control, tolerance, and
37 cooperation; provide for an orderly learning environment to
38 enable students to make positive lifestyle choices and avoid
39 unhealthy behavior; create a positive moral culture in the
40 classroom and the school; and develop moral character and civic
41 virtue in students as one means of creating a responsible and
42 compassionate society.

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