

By Senator Siplin

19-00304-10

20102590__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to required instruction for public
3 schools; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring that the
4 character-development program for kindergarten through
5 grade 12 include conflict-resolution management;
6 providing an effective date.

7
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9
10 Section 1. Paragraph (s) 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 that meet the
17 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
18 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
19 approved methods of instruction, the following:

20 (s) A character-development program in the elementary
21 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
22 is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the
23 character-development program shall be required in kindergarten
24 through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or
25 adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that
26 shall be submitted to the department for approval. The
27 character-development curriculum shall emphasize ~~stress~~ the
28 qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness;
29 respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property;

19-00304-10

20102590__

30 honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious
31 tolerance; ~~and cooperation;~~ and conflict-resolution management,
32 including peer mediation.

33

34 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
35 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

36

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.