

By Senator Garcia

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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 the
4 curriculum of the character-development program
5 required in kindergarten through grade 12; providing
6 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 (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 kindergarten through
21 grade 12 ~~the elementary schools~~, similar to Character First or
22 Character Counts, ~~which is secular in nature~~. Core values that
23 should be stressed are honesty, virtue, moral courage, dignity
24 of honest labor, patriotism, self-discipline, self-respect,
25 perseverance, duty, honor, compassion, charity, and other
26 qualities of character that better prepare students to recognize
27 and accept the responsibility for preserving the blessings of
28 liberty inherited from prior generations. In the primary
29 classroom in kindergarten through grade 5, the goal should be to

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30 integrate the core values into lessons throughout subject
31 matter. ~~Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the character-~~
32 ~~development program shall be required in kindergarten through~~
33 ~~grade 12.~~ Each district school board shall develop or adopt a
34 curriculum for the character-development program that shall be
35 submitted to the department for approval. Each principal,
36 administrator, teacher, and other appropriate school personnel
37 must be informed of this paragraph at the beginning of each
38 school year. ~~The character-development curriculum shall stress~~
39 ~~the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship;~~
40 ~~kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal~~
41 ~~property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and~~
42 ~~religious tolerance; and cooperation.~~

43
44 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
45 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.