

HB 419

2011

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

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29 primary classroom in kindergarten through grade 5, the goal
30 should be to integrate the core values into lessons throughout
31 subject matter. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the
32 ~~character development program shall be required in kindergarten~~
33 ~~through grade 12.~~ Each district school board shall develop or
34 adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that
35 shall be submitted to the department for approval. Each
36 principal, administrator, teacher, and other appropriate school
37 personnel must be informed of this paragraph at the beginning of
38 each school year. ~~The character development curriculum shall~~
39 ~~stress 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.