

HB 775

2012

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to required instruction in the public  
 3           schools; providing a short title;; amending s.  
 4           1003.42, F.S.; revising the curriculum of the  
 5           character-development program required in kindergarten  
 6           through grade 12; providing an effective date.

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

9  
 10           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Character  
 11 Education Act."

12           Section 2. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section  
 13 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14           1003.42 Required instruction.—

15           (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
 16 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
 17 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
 18 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
 19 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,  
 20 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
 21 approved methods of instruction, the following:

22           (s) A character-development program in kindergarten  
 23 through grade 12 ~~the elementary schools~~, similar to Character  
 24 First, ~~or~~ Character Counts, or The Leader in Me, which is  
 25 ~~secular in nature.~~ The character-development curriculum shall  
 26 stress the virtues of wisdom, pursuit of excellence, equality,  
 27 responsibility, honesty, courage, patriotism, self-discipline,  
 28 perseverance, duty, honor, charity, civility, tolerance, and

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29 other qualities of character that better prepare students to  
30 recognize and accept the responsibility for preserving the  
31 blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations. Beginning  
32 ~~in school year 2004-2005, the character development program~~  
33 ~~shall be required in kindergarten through grade 12.~~ Each  
34 district school board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for  
35 the character-development program that shall be submitted to the  
36 department for approval. Members of the administrative and  
37 instructional staff must be informed of the requirements of this  
38 paragraph at the beginning of each school year. ~~The character-~~  
39 ~~development curriculum shall stress the qualities of patriotism;~~  
40 ~~responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority,~~  
41 ~~life, liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity; self-~~  
42 ~~control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and~~  
43 ~~cooperation.~~

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

47 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.