

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to required K-12 instruction; amending  
 3           s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising the requirements for  
 4           instruction relating to the history of the continent  
 5           of Africa to include specified contents relating to  
 6           the enslavement of African peoples; revising the  
 7           requirements for the curriculum of a required  
 8           character-development program to include the history  
 9           of Africa and contributions of African Americans;  
 10          providing an effective date.

11  
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
 14           Section 1. Paragraphs (h) and (s) of subsection (2) of  
 15           section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16           1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

24           (h) The history of the continent of Africa ~~African~~  
 25           ~~Americans~~, including the history of African peoples before the

26 | political conflicts that led to the development of slavery  
27 | around the world and in the United States. The curriculum must  
28 | include, but not be limited to, the passage of enslaved persons  
29 | to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the many  
30 | contributions of African Americans globally and in the United  
31 | States ~~to society~~. Instructional materials shall include the  
32 | contributions of African Americans to the American and global  
33 | society.

34 | (s) A character-development program in the elementary  
35 | schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which  
36 | is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the  
37 | character-development program shall be required in kindergarten  
38 | through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or  
39 | adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that  
40 | shall be submitted to the department for approval. The  
41 | character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of  
42 | patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for  
43 | authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty;  
44 | charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance;  
45 | ~~and~~ cooperation; and the history of Africa and contributions of  
46 | African Americans as specified in paragraph (h). The character-  
47 | development curriculum for grades 9 through 12 shall, at a  
48 | minimum, include instruction on developing leadership skills,  
49 | interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;  
50 | creating a resume; developing and practicing the skills

51 necessary for employment interviews; conflict resolution,  
52 workplace ethics, and workplace law; managing stress and  
53 expectations; and developing skills that enable students to  
54 become more resilient and self-motivated.

55

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

58 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.