

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.

7  
 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.