

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senator Latvala

581-02940-16

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to character-development instruction;  
3 amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring character  
4 education programs to provide certain instruction to  
5 students in grades 9-12; providing an effective date.  
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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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9 Section 1. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section  
10 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

19 (s) A character-development program in the elementary  
20 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which  
21 is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the  
22 character-development program shall be required in kindergarten  
23 through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or  
24 adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that  
25 shall be submitted to the department for approval. The  
26 character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of  
27 patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for  
28 authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty;  
29 charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance;  
30 and cooperation. The character-development program in grades 9  
31 through 12 shall, at a minimum, include instruction on  
32 developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization

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33 skills, and research skills; creating a resume; developing and  
34 practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;  
35 managing stress and expectations; and developing skills that  
36 enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

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

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.