

AN ACT

relating to instruction in positive character traits in public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 29.906, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 29.906. CHARACTER TRAITS INSTRUCTION [~~EDUCATION PROGRAM~~].

SECTION 2. Section 29.906, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) The State Board of Education shall integrate positive character traits into the essential knowledge and skills adopted for kindergarten through grade 12, as appropriate [~~A school district may provide a character education program~~].

(b) The State Board of Education must include the following [~~A character education program under this section must:~~

~~(1) stress~~] positive character traits [~~, such as~~]:

(1) [~~(A)~~] courage;

(2) [~~(B)~~] trustworthiness, including honesty, reliability, punctuality, and loyalty;

(3) [~~(C)~~] integrity;

(4) [~~(D)~~] respect and courtesy;

(5) [~~(E)~~] responsibility, including accountability,

1 diligence, perseverance, and self-control;

2 (6) [~~(F)~~] fairness, including justice and freedom
3 from prejudice;

4 (7) [~~(G)~~] caring, including kindness, empathy,
5 compassion, consideration, patience, generosity, and charity;

6 (8) [~~(H)~~] good citizenship, including patriotism,
7 concern for the common good and the community, and respect for
8 authority and the law; [~~and~~]

9 (9) [~~(I)~~] school pride; and

10 (10) gratitude [~~+~~

11 ~~[(2) use integrated teaching strategies; and~~

12 ~~[(3) be age appropriate].~~

13 (c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school
14 must adopt a character education program that includes the positive
15 character traits listed in Subsection (b). In developing or
16 selecting a character education program under this section, a
17 school district shall consult with a committee selected by the
18 district that consists of:

19 (1) parents of district students;

20 (2) educators; and

21 (3) other members of the community, including
22 community leaders.

23 (g) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as
24 necessary to implement this section.

25 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
26 school year.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1026 was passed by the House on April 25, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 4, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1026 on May 23, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 6, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1026 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor