S.B. No. 123

AN ACT

relating to instruction in positive character traits and personal skills 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 AND PERSONAL SKILLS INSTRUCTION.

SECTION 2.  Sections 29.906(a), (b), and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  The State Board of Education shall integrate positive character traits and personal skills into the essential knowledge and skills adopted for kindergarten through grade 12, as appropriate.

(b)  The State Board of Education must include the following positive character traits and personal skills:

(1)  courage;

(2)  trustworthiness, including honesty, reliability, punctuality, and loyalty;

(3)  integrity;

(4)  respect and courtesy;

(5)  responsibility, including accountability, diligence, perseverance, self-management skills, and self-control;

(6)  fairness, including justice and freedom from prejudice;

(7)  caring, including kindness, empathy, compassion, consideration, patience, generosity, [~~and~~] charity, and interpersonal skills;

(8)  good citizenship, including patriotism, concern for the common good and the community, responsible decision-making skills, and respect for authority and the law;

(9)  school pride; and

(10)  gratitude.

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

(1)  parents of district students;

(2)  educators; and

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

SECTION 3.  This Act applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 123 passed the Senate on May 5, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 123 passed the House on May 26, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 100, Nays 47, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor