2021S0003-1 11/06/20

By:  Johnson S.B. No. 123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of social and emotional skills in character trait instruction provided by public schools.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 29.906(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  The State Board of Education shall integrate positive character traits, including social and emotional 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 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, interpersonal skills, and social awareness;

(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; and

(11)  self-awareness.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.