

By: Johnson, Powell

S.B. No. 123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to instruction in positive character traits and personal  
3 skills in public schools.

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

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

7 Sec. 29.906. CHARACTER TRAITS AND PERSONAL SKILLS  
8 INSTRUCTION.

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

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

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

- 17 (1) courage;
- 18 (2) trustworthiness, including honesty, reliability,  
19 punctuality, and loyalty;
- 20 (3) integrity;
- 21 (4) respect and courtesy;
- 22 (5) responsibility, including accountability,  
23 diligence, perseverance, self-management skills, and self-control;
- 24 (6) fairness, including justice and freedom from

1 prejudice;

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

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

8           (9) school pride; and

9           (10) gratitude.

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

16           (1) parents of district students;

17           (2) educators; and

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

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

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