

By: Johnson, et al.
(Turner of Dallas)

S.B. No. 123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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.