

By: Olcott

H.B. No. 3579

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eliminating the requirement for personal skills instruction 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;

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

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

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

9 (9) school pride; and

10 (10) gratitude.

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

17 (1) parents of district students;

18 (2) educators; and

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

21 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
22 school year.

23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.