

HOUSE BILL No. 2944

By Representatives Kelley, Ballard, Beamer, Brown, Brunk, Carlson, Craft, Garcia, Hill, Huebert, Kinzer, Knox, Light, Loganbill, Mah, Mast, Masterson, O'Neal, Otto, Pilcher-Cook, Thull and Watkins

2-14

11 AN ACT concerning schools and school districts; relating to character
12 development programs; relating to the duties of the state board of
13 education.

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15 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

16 Section 1. (a) The state board of education shall authorize and assist
17 in the implementation of programs on character development which shall
18 be offered to students in kindergarten and grades one through eight.

19 (b) The state board of education shall develop a curriculum, materials
20 and guidelines that local boards of education and governing authorities
21 of accredited nonpublic schools may use in implementing the program of
22 instruction on character development.

23 (c) The state board of education shall develop standards and objec-
24 tives for character development within any existing appropriate subject-
25 matter curriculum.

26 (d) Beginning in school year 2006-2007, each school district shall pro-
27 vide students in kindergarten and grades one through eight with character
28 development programs and instruction which are appropriate for the
29 grade-levels at which any such program or instruction is offered.

30 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring schools or
31 school districts to provide new programs or instruction if existing pro-
32 grams and instruction comply with the requirements of this section and
33 any rules and regulations adopted by the state board pursuant to this
34 section.

35 (f) As used in this section:

36 (1) "Character-development program" means a program such as
37 Character First or Character Counts or other similar program which is
38 secular in nature and which stresses character qualities.

39 (2) "Character qualities" means positive character qualities which in-
40 clude, but is not limited to, honesty, responsibility, attentiveness, pa-
41 tience, kindness, respect, self-control, tolerance, cooperation, initiative,
42 patriotism and citizenship.

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1 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
2 publication in the statute book.