

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 1177

Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 6/15/00

Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute No. 2 Adopted 6/22/00

Short Title: Enhanced Character Education.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 9, 2000

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE THE CURRICULUM FOR
CHARACTER EDUCATION AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT
THE CURRICULUM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 115C-81 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(h1) Enhanced Character Education. – Local boards of education that require the teaching of character education under subsection (h) of this section shall incorporate into their programs the following additional curriculum:

(1) Respect for teachers. – Holding teachers, school administrators, and all school personnel in high esteem; demonstrating in words and deeds that all school personnel deserve to be treated with courtesy and proper deference. In order to emphasize this character trait, schools may include instruction on respectful forms of address that students should use when addressing school employees on school property. These forms of address may include the use of 'Yes, Ma'am', 'No, Ma'am', 'Yes, Sir', 'No, Sir', and the use of an appropriate title such as 'Mr.', 'Mrs.', 'Miss', or 'Ms.'

- 1 (2) Responsibility for school safety. – Creating a harmonious school
2 atmosphere that is free from assaultive threats, weapons, and violent or
3 disruptive behavior; cultivating an orderly learning environment where
4 students and school personnel feel safe and secure; encouraging the
5 resolution of conflicts and disagreements through peaceful means
6 including peer mediation.
- 7 (3) Good citizenship. – Obeying the laws of the nation and this State;
8 abiding by school rules; understanding the rights and responsibilities of
9 the members of a democracy."

10 Section 2. G.S. 115C-81(h) reads as rewritten:

11 "(h) Character Education. – Local boards of education ~~may~~are strongly encouraged
12 to require the teaching of the following character traits in the public schools:

- 13 (1) Courage. – Having the determination to do the right thing even when
14 others don't and the strength to follow your conscience rather than the
15 crowd; and attempting difficult things that are worthwhile.
- 16 (2) Good judgment. – Choosing worthy goals and setting proper priorities;
17 thinking through the consequences of your actions; and basing decisions
18 on practical wisdom and good sense.
- 19 (3) Integrity. – Having the inner strength to be truthful, trustworthy, and
20 honest in all things; acting justly and honorably.
- 21 (4) Kindness. – Being considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of
22 others; showing care, compassion, friendship, and generosity; and
23 treating others as you would like to be treated.
- 24 (5) Perseverance. – Being persistent in the pursuit of worthy objectives in
25 spite of difficulty, opposition, or discouragement; and exhibiting
26 patience and having the fortitude to try again when confronted with
27 delays, mistakes, or failures.
- 28 (6) Respect. – Showing high regard for authority, for other people, for self,
29 for property, and for country; and understanding that all people have
30 value as human beings.
- 31 (7) Responsibility. – Being dependable in carrying out obligations and
32 duties; showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct; being
33 accountable for your own actions; and being committed to active
34 involvement in your community.
- 35 (8) Self-Discipline. – Demonstrating hard work and commitment to
36 purpose; regulating yourself for improvement and restraining from
37 inappropriate behaviors; being in proper control of your words, actions,
38 impulses, and desires; choosing abstinence from premarital sex, drugs,
39 alcohol, and other harmful substances and behaviors; and doing your
40 best in all situations.

41 A program to teach the above character traits and those under subsection (h1) of this
42 section may incorporate volunteerism. Volunteerism includes rendering a service of
43 one's own free will with no promise of compensation to others in the community, being

1 actively involved in school by offering to help other students achieve academic success
2 through programs such as student mentoring, developing a sense of caring for others, and
3 participating as a responsible citizen in the community. Public schools also may use
4 service-learning as a tool to enrich the curriculum by helping students to relate their
5 service experience directly to knowledge and skills learned in the classroom."

6 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
7 Education the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal
8 year. The State Board shall use these funds to assist local school administrative units to
9 implement this act.

10 Section 4. Section 3 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2000. The remainder
11 of this act becomes effective September 1, 2001.