

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1704

By: Coody, Jones, Blackwell,
Wright, Sullivan, Dank and
Peterson (Pam) of the House

and

Lawler of the Senate

(schools - amending 70 O.S., Section 1210.229-6 -
character education programs - pilot projects -
effective date -

emergency)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 1210.229-6,
is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.229-6 A. ~~The local school boards~~ board of
education of the every school districts of district in this state
may develop and implement, at the beginning of the ~~1999-2000~~ 2006-
2007 school year, a comprehensive program for character education in
grades kindergarten through ~~sixth~~ twelfth. ~~This program of The~~
character education program shall focus on ~~students'~~ development of
character traits, ~~the kind and manner found in available curriculum~~
in students. The program of character education may include, but
shall not be limited to, the voluntary reciting of the Pledge of
Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

B. The State Board of Education shall ~~be~~ develop and make
available to all school districts ~~with necessary technical~~ through
an Internet web site, the following:

1. Technical assistance upon request of a school district;
2. A list of character education programs, curricula, and
materials which may be used by school districts;

3. A character education honor roll that will recognize school districts that have successfully implemented a comprehensive school district-wide program of character education and will highlight the positive impacts the program has had on each school or school district; and

4. A character education reading list of books that may include, but is not limited to, books that illustrate models of good character and books that relate to the development of good character traits that may be used by schools in a character education program.

C. The State Board of Education may award grants to ten school districts for the establishment of pilot projects which will implement a comprehensive character education program in the school district. The amount of each grant shall be One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The projects shall be innovative programs that will serve as models for other school districts. Funding may cover the cost of purchasing curriculum, materials, and training teachers. The Board shall determine pilot project criteria and establish a process for the consideration of proposals. The proposals for pilot projects shall be considered on a statewide competitive basis. The Board shall promulgate rules for the operation of the projects.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of March, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the Senate