

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 404

By: Newhouse

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to education; amending 70 O.S. 2011,
8 Section 1210.229-6, as amended by Section 1, Chapter
9 163, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section
10 1210.229-6), which relates to character education;
11 creating the Character Education Revolving Fund;
12 specifying sources of fund; providing for
13 expenditures; providing an effective date; and
14 declaring an emergency.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 1210.229-6,
17 as amended by Section 1, Chapter 163, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp.
18 2016, Section 1210.229-6), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 1210.229-6. A. The board of education of every school
20 district in this state may develop and implement a comprehensive
21 program for character education in any single grade or combination
22 of grades, prekindergarten through twelfth. The character education
23 program shall focus on development of character traits in students.
24 The program of character education may include, but shall not be

1 limited to, the voluntary reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to
2 the flag of the United States of America.

3 B. The State Department of Education shall develop and make
4 available to all school districts through an Internet website, the
5 following:

6 1. Technical assistance upon request of a school district;

7 2. A list of approved research-based character education
8 programs, curricula, and materials which may be used by school
9 districts;

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

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

19 C. Subject to the availability of funding, the State Board of
20 Education may award grants to ten school districts for the
21 establishment of pilot projects which align character education with
22 the state curriculum in reading, mathematics, science or social
23 studies and demonstrate how character education teaches life skills
24 that lead to career readiness. The amount of each grant shall be

1 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The projects shall be innovative
2 programs that will serve as models for other school districts.
3 Funding may cover the cost of purchasing curriculum, materials, or
4 training teachers. The Board shall determine pilot project criteria
5 and establish a process for the consideration of proposals. The
6 proposals for pilot projects shall be considered on a statewide
7 competitive basis. The Board shall promulgate rules for the
8 operation of the projects.

9 D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
10 fund for the State Board of Education to be designated the
11 "Character Education Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
12 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
13 consist of all monies received by the State Board of Education from
14 legislative appropriations or transfers. All monies accruing to the
15 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
16 expended by the State Board of Education for the purpose of
17 implementing character education programs pursuant to the provisions
18 of this section. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon
19 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as
20 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and
21 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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