

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 1416

By: Alvord

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
8 Section 1210.229-6, which relates to character  
9 education; naming language the Teaching Honesty,  
10 Respect, Integrity, Virtue, and Excellence (THRIVE)  
11 Act; providing short title; directing the State  
12 Department of Education to develop certain program of  
13 positive character traits and personal skills  
14 education as part of certain subject matter  
15 standards; providing for contents of program;  
16 directing the Department to make certain information  
17 available online prior to certain school year;  
18 directing the Department not to include certain  
19 programs, curricula, or materials in certain approved  
20 list; removing language regarding distribution of  
21 certain grants; directing the board of education of  
22 each public school district and the governing body of  
23 each public charter school to adopt certain program  
and issue certain public notice; providing process to  
opt child out of program; requiring the Department to  
electronically submit and publish on its website  
certain report within certain time period; providing  
for contents of report; allowing acceptance of  
certain funds; requiring the board of education of  
each public school district and the governing body of  
each public charter school to adopt certain policy  
regarding availability of school premises; requiring  
prior written notification regarding availability of  
certain program; directing the State Board of  
Education to approve and publish online certain list  
of programs; providing certain construction;  
providing for promulgation of rules; updating  
statutory language; providing an effective date; and  
declaring an emergency.

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

3 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.229-6,

4 is amended to read as follows:

5 Section 1210.229-6. A. This act shall be known and may be  
6 cited as the "Teaching Honesty, Respect, Integrity, Virtue, and  
7 Excellence (THRIVE) Act".

8 B. The board of education of every school district in this  
9 state may State Department of Education shall develop and implement  
10 a comprehensive program for of positive character education in any  
11 single grade or combination of traits and personal skills education  
12 as part of the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board  
13 of Education for grades, prekindergarten through twelfth twelve  
14 pursuant to Sections 11-103.6 and 11-103.7 of this title. The  
15 positive character traits and personal skills education program  
16 shall focus on development of character traits in students. The  
17 program of character education may program shall include, but shall  
18 not be limited to, the voluntary reciting of the Pledge of  
19 Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and consist  
20 exclusively of instruction in the value of finishing high school,  
21 working full-time, getting married before having children, and  
22 instruction in the following character traits and fundamental values  
23 deeply rooted in the history and tradition of the United States:

1       1. Trustworthiness including honesty, reliability, punctuality,  
2       and loyalty;

3       2. Responsibility including hard work, accountability,  
4       diligence, good judgment, perseverance, and self-control;

5       3. Care for family including parents, siblings, and a future  
6       spouse and children;

7       4. Kindness and generosity toward others;

8       5. Respect and care for human life;

9       6. Respect for parental authority;

10       7. Respect for parents' obligations to their children;

11       8. Respect for the property of other people;

12       9. Respect for legitimate authority and law;

13       10. Respect for patriotism, service to the community, and  
14       concern for the common good;

15       11. Respect for religious faith, morality, wisdom, and  
16       knowledge;

17       12. Respect for lifelong marriage, sexual fidelity within  
18       marriage, and sexual abstinence outside of marriage;

19       13. Gratitude;

20       14. Charity; and

21       15. Courage.

22       B. The C. Prior to the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year,  
23       the State Department of Education shall develop and make available

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1 to all public school districts and public charter schools through an  
2 Internet website, the following:

3 1. Technical assistance upon request of a public school  
4 district or public charter school;  
5 2. A list of approved ~~research-based~~ positive character traits  
6 and personal skills education programs, curricula, and materials  
7 that meet the requirements of this section which may be used by  
8 public school districts and public charter schools;

9 3. A positive character traits and personal skills education  
10 honor roll that will recognize public school districts and public  
11 charter schools that have successfully implemented a ~~comprehensive~~  
12 ~~school-district-wide~~ program of positive character traits and  
13 personal skills education and will highlight the positive impacts  
14 the program has had on each public school or, public school  
15 district, or public charter school; and

16 4. A positive character traits and personal skills education  
17 reading list of books that ~~may include, but is not limited to,~~ books  
18 that illustrate models of ~~good character~~ one or more of the  
19 character traits and personal skills set forth in subsection B of  
20 this section and books that relate to the development of ~~good~~ such  
21 positive character traits and personal skills that may be used by  
22 public schools in a character education program.

23 The State Department of Education shall not include any programs,  
24 curricula, or materials in the list approved pursuant to this

1 subsection that contradict or undermine respect for the character  
2 traits and personal skills required to be taught pursuant to this  
3 section. The Department's approval of programs, curricula, or  
4 materials pursuant to this subsection shall be ministerial only and  
5 not discretionary. Public school districts and public charter  
6 schools may only satisfy the requirements of this section by  
7 adopting programs, curricula, or materials from the list approved  
8 pursuant to this subsection.

9       c. Subject to the availability of funding, the State Board of  
10 Education may award grants to ten school districts for the  
11 establishment of pilot projects which align character education with  
12 the state curriculum in reading, mathematics, science or social  
13 studies and demonstrate how character education teaches life skills  
14 that lead to career readiness. The amount of each grant shall be  
15 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The projects shall be innovative  
16 programs that will serve as models for other school districts.  
17 Funding may cover the cost of purchasing curriculum, materials, or  
18 training teachers. The Board shall determine pilot project criteria  
19 and establish a process for the consideration of proposals. The  
20 proposals for pilot projects shall be considered on a statewide  
21 competitive basis. The Board shall promulgate rules for the  
22 operation of the projects

23       d. The board of education of each public school district and  
24 the governing body of each public charter school shall adopt the

1 positive character traits and personal skills education program  
2 prescribed by this section and adopt a process to issue a public  
3 notice of implementation of the positive character traits and  
4 personal skills education program required by this section, to make  
5 curricula and materials available for public inspection, and to  
6 provide parents and legal guardians a means to opt their child out  
7 of participation in the positive character traits and personal  
8 skills education program. The parent or legal guardian of a student  
9 who does not want his or her child to participate in the program may  
10 provide written notification to the public school district or public  
11 charter school that the child is opting out of the program. No  
12 student whose parent or legal guardian elects to opt the student out  
13 of the program shall be required to participate in the program.

14 E. No later than sixty (60) days following the beginning of the  
15 2027-2028 school year, and no later than sixty (60) days following  
16 the beginning of each school year thereafter, the State Department  
17 of Education shall publish on its website and electronically submit  
18 a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
19 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of the  
20 committees with responsibility over common education in both houses  
21 of the Legislature. The report shall include:

22 1. The total number and names of public school districts and  
23 public charter schools that have implemented the positive character

1       traits and personal skills education program required by this  
2       section;

3       2. The total number and names of public school districts and  
4       public charter schools that have not implemented the positive  
5       character traits and personal skills education program required by  
6       this section and the reasons given for not complying with the  
7       provisions of this section; and

8       3. Actions taken by the Department to bring public school  
9       districts and public charter schools reported pursuant to paragraph  
10       2 of this subsection into compliance with the provisions of this  
11       section.

12       F. The State Department of Education, public school districts,  
13       and public charter schools may accept federal or private funds to  
14       implement the provisions of this section.

15       G. 1. Prior to the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year,  
16       each public school district board of education and governing body of  
17       a public charter school shall adopt a policy to make school premises  
18       available for students to participate in voluntary after-school  
19       instruction programs provided by third parties that instruct  
20       students in the philosophical, historical, traditional, or religious  
21       justifications for the positive character traits and personal skills  
22       education program required by this section.

23       2. Written consent from a parent or legal guardian shall be  
24       required to allow a student to participate in such instruction

1 programs. Each public school district board of education and  
2 governing body of a public charter school shall provide prior  
3 written notification to the parent or legal guardian of a student  
4 regarding the availability of the instruction program available  
5 pursuant to this subsection, which shall include information to  
6 parents and legal guardians on how to provide written consent for  
7 student participation. Consent for a student's participation may be  
8 revoked at any time by the student or his or her parent or legal  
9 guardian upon written notice to the public school district or public  
10 charter school.

11       3. The State Board of Education shall approve and publish on  
12 the State Department of Education's website a list of after-school  
13 instruction programs that comply with the provisions of this  
14 subsection. Approval shall not be denied to a program based on its  
15 viewpoint or on the grounds that it contains expression protected by  
16 the Oklahoma Constitution or the United States Constitution.

17       H. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this  
18 section and any other provision in the Oklahoma Statutes or an  
19 administrative rule, guidance, or policy, the provisions of this  
20 section shall control.

21       I. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to  
22 implement the provisions of this section.

23       SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.  
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1 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
2 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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