

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 3241

By: Hasenbeck

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.229-6, which relates to the program of character education; naming the Teaching Honesty, Respect, Integrity, Virtue, and Excellence (THRIVE) Act; requiring the State Department of Education to develop a character traits and personal skills education curriculum; listing exclusive traits and values to be included; providing completion date; clarifying that the program is available to public schools and charter schools; prohibiting use of additional traits and values; requiring the board of education of each school district to develop a process for program participation and opting out; requiring the Department to report participation and noncompliance by school district; allowing the Department and schools to accept certain funds; requiring schools to provide school premises for certain program participation; providing purpose; reconciling conflicts; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.229-6, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1210.229-6. A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Teaching Honesty, Respect, Integrity, Virtue, and Excellence (THRIVE) Act. ~~The board of education of every school~~

~~district in this state may~~ State Department of Education shall  
develop and implement a comprehensive program ~~for~~ of positive  
~~character education in any single grade or combination of grades,~~  
traits and personal skill education as part of the subject matter  
standards adopted by the Department for grades prekindergarten  
through twelfth pursuant to Sections 11-103.6 and 11-103.7 of this  
title. The positive character traits and personal skills education  
program shall focus on development of character traits in students.  
The program of character education ~~may~~ shall include, ~~but shall not~~  
~~be limited to,~~ the voluntary reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to  
the flag of the United States of America, and otherwise shall  
consist exclusively of instruction in the value of finishing high  
school, working full time, getting married before having children,  
and instruction in all of, and only, the following character traits  
and fundamental values deeply rooted in the history and tradition of  
the United States:

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

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

3. Care for family, including parents, siblings, and future  
spouses and children;

4. Kindness and generosity toward others;

5. Respect and care for human life;

1     6. Respect for parental authority;

2     7. Respect for parents' obligations to children;

3     8. Respect for the property of other people;

4     9. Respect for legitimate authority and law;

5     10. Respect for patriotism, service to the community, and  
6 concern for the common good;

7     11. Respect for religious faith, morality, wisdom, and  
8 knowledge;

9     12. Respect for lifelong marriage, sexual fidelity within  
10 marriage, and sexual abstinence outside of marriage;

11     13. Gratitude;

12     14. Charity; and

13     15. Courage.

14     B. ~~The~~ 1. Not later than the beginning of the 2026-2027 school  
15 year, the State Department of Education shall develop and make  
16 available to all public school districts and charter schools through  
17 an Internet website, the following:

18     ~~1. Technical~~

19         a. technical assistance upon request of a public school  
20         district, ~~or~~ or charter school,

21     ~~2. A~~

22         b. a list of approved ~~research-based~~ positive character  
23         traits and personal skills education programs,  
24         curricula, and materials, in compliance with the

requirements of this section, which may be used by  
public school districts, and charter schools,

3. A

c. a positive character traits and personal skills  
education honor roll that will recognize public school  
districts and charter schools that have successfully  
implemented a comprehensive school-district-wide  
program of positive character traits and personal  
skills education and will highlight the positive  
impacts the program has had on each public school or,  
school district, or charter school, and

4. A

d. a positive character traits and personal skills  
education reading list of books that may include, but  
is not limited to, books that illustrate models of  
good character one or more of the character traits and  
personal skills set forth in subsection A of this  
section, and books that relate to the development of  
good such positive character traits and personal  
skills that may be used by schools in a character  
education program.

2. The State Department of Education shall not include any  
programs, curricula, or materials in the approved list required in  
subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of this subsection that contradict or

undermine respect for the character traits and personal skills  
required to be taught pursuant to this section. The Department's  
approval of programs, curricula, or materials pursuant to this  
section is ministerial only and not discretionary. Districts and  
schools may only satisfy the requirements of this section by  
adopting programs, curricula, or materials from the Department's  
approved list as provided in this section.

~~C. Subject to the availability of funding, the State Board of~~  
~~Education may award grants to ten school districts for the~~  
~~establishment of pilot projects which align character education with~~  
~~the state curriculum in reading, mathematics, science or social~~  
~~studies and demonstrate how character education teaches life skills~~  
~~that lead to career readiness. 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, or~~  
~~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~~ The board of education of each school  
district shall adopt a process to issue a public notice of the  
adoption of the success sequence and character education curriculum  
required hereunder, to make course materials available for public

1 inspection, and to provide parents and legal guardians a means to  
2 opt their child out of participation in the courses. Participation  
3 in the success sequence and character education courses of  
4 instruction required hereunder may be terminated by the student's  
5 parent or legal guardian at any time upon written notice to the  
6 board. No student whose parent or legal guardian elects to opt out  
7 shall be required to participate in the success sequence and  
8 character education courses of instruction established under this  
9 section.

10 D. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, no later than  
11 sixty (60) days following the beginning of each school year, the  
12 State Department of Education shall provide to the Governor,  
13 Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of  
14 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate  
15 and chairpersons of the committees of the Senate and House of  
16 Representatives that primarily deal with education, a report  
17 stating, as of the reporting date, the total number of public school  
18 districts, the number and names of schools and districts that have  
19 adopted success sequence and character education courses in  
20 compliance with the requirements of this section, the number and  
21 names of districts not in compliance, reasons given by noncompliant  
22 districts for their noncompliance, and actions taken by the State  
23 Department of Education to bring noncompliant schools and districts  
24

1 into compliance. The report shall be made available to the public  
2 in a clearly accessible manner on the Department's website.

3 E. The State Department of Education, districts, and schools  
4 may accept federal or private funds for the purpose of assisting  
5 with implementation of success sequence and character education  
6 courses in compliance with the requirements of this act.

7 F. 1. Not later than the beginning of the 2026-2027 school  
8 year, the board of education of each school district shall adopt a  
9 policy to make the school premises available for voluntary  
10 participation by students, with consent of the students' parent or  
11 legal guardian, in after-school instruction programs provided by  
12 third parties that instruct pupils in the philosophical, historical,  
13 traditional, or religious justifications for the success sequence  
14 and character education curriculum established under subsection A of  
15 this section. The State Department of Education shall make a list  
16 of approved after-school programs available to districts, schools,  
17 and parents and shall adopt a process, in cooperation with the  
18 third-party providers, to obtain the consent of the student and the  
19 student's parent or legal guardian for the student's participation.  
20 Consent for a student's participation in the program may be revoked  
21 at any time by the student, parent, or legal guardian upon written  
22 notice to the school or school board.

23 2. The purpose of the after-school instruction program is to  
24 provide philosophical, historical, traditional, or religious

1 justifications for the success sequence and character traits set  
2 forth in subsection A of this section. No after-school instruction  
3 program that is inconsistent with said purpose or subject matter  
4 shall be approved. Subject to the requirement of purpose and  
5 subject matter consistency, a school board shall not deny approval  
6 to any afterschool program based on its viewpoint, or on the grounds  
7 that the program contains expression protected by the First  
8 Amendment of the United States Constitution, or Section 2 of Article  
9 I or Section 22 of Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution.

10 G. In the event of a conflict between the requirements of this  
11 section and any other Oklahoma statute, administrative code,  
12 regulation, guidance or policy, the requirements of this section  
13 shall control.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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

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