

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 790

By: Stewart

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 1210.229-6, which relates to character education; requiring the State Board of Education to develop a program of positive character traits and personal skills education; providing for contents of program; directing the State Department of Education to make certain information available on its website; modifying certain honor roll; removing language regarding the awarding of grants for implementation of certain pilot projects; directing public school districts and charter schools to consult with certain committee prior to implementing certain program; providing for committee membership; 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. ~~The board of education of every school district in this state may~~ State Board 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 skills education as part of the subject matter standards adopted by the Board for grades prekindergarten through twelfth

1 pursuant to Sections 11-103.6 and 11-103.7 of this title. The  
2 positive character traits and personal skills education program  
3 ~~shall focus on development of character traits in students. The~~  
4 ~~program of character education may include, but shall not be limited~~  
5 ~~to, the voluntary reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag~~  
6 ~~of the United States of America:~~

7 1. Courage;

8 2. Trustworthiness including honesty, reliability, punctuality,  
9 and loyalty;

10 3. Integrity;

11 4. Respect and courtesy;

12 5. Responsibility including accountability, diligence,  
13 perseverance, self-management skills, and self-control;

14 6. Fairness including justice and freedom from prejudice;

15 7. Caring including kindness, empathy, compassion,  
16 consideration, patience, generosity, charity, and interpersonal  
17 skills;

18 8. Good citizenship including patriotism, concern for the  
19 common good and the community, responsible decision-making skills,  
20 and respect for authority of law;

21 9. School pride; and

22 10. Gratitude.

1 B. The State Department of Education shall develop and make  
2 available to all public school districts and charter schools through  
3 ~~an Internet~~ its website, the following:

4 1. Technical assistance upon request of a public school  
5 district or charter school;

6 2. A list of approved research-based positive character traits  
7 and personal skills education programs, curricula, and materials  
8 which may be used by public school districts and charter schools;

9 3. A positive character traits and personal skills education  
10 honor roll that will recognize public school districts and charter  
11 schools that have successfully implemented a ~~comprehensive school-~~  
12 ~~district-wide~~ program of positive character traits and personal  
13 skills education and will highlight the positive impacts the program  
14 has had on each public school ~~or~~, school district, or charter  
15 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 and books that relate to  
19 the development of ~~good~~ positive character traits and personal  
20 skills that may be used by schools ~~in a character education program~~.

21 C. ~~Subject to the availability of funding, the State Board of~~  
22 ~~Education may award grants to ten school districts for the~~  
23 ~~establishment of pilot projects which align character education with~~  
24 ~~the state curriculum in reading, mathematics, science or social~~

1 ~~studies and demonstrate how character education teaches life skills~~  
2 ~~that lead to career readiness. The amount of each grant shall be~~  
3 ~~One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The projects shall be innovative~~  
4 ~~programs that will serve as models for other school districts.~~  
5 ~~Funding may cover the cost of purchasing curriculum, materials, or~~  
6 ~~training teachers. The Board shall determine pilot project criteria~~  
7 ~~and establish a process for the consideration of proposals. The~~  
8 ~~proposals for pilot projects shall be considered on a statewide~~  
9 ~~competitive basis. The Board shall promulgate rules for the~~  
10 ~~operation of the projects~~ Prior to implementing the positive  
11 character traits and personal skills education program developed  
12 pursuant to subsection A of this section, public school districts  
13 and charter schools in this state shall consult with a committee  
14 comprised of:

- 15 1. Parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the  
16 public school district or charter school;
- 17 2. Classroom teachers employed by the public school district or  
18 charter school; and
- 19 3. Other members of the community in which the public school  
20 district or charter school is located.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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