
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2409

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Talcott, Stensen, Carlson, Rockefeller, Quall, Santos, Haigh, O'Brien, Veloria, Keiser, D. Schmidt, Thomas, D. Sommers, McDonald, Lantz, Hurst, Skinner, Ruderman and Esser)

Read first time 02/07/2000. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to character education; amending RCW 28A.150.211;
2 and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that academic success
5 rests on a foundation of character. The legislature further finds that
6 parents are the first and primary moral educators of children, and that
7 schools have a role in reinforcing the character traits and values
8 deemed important by parents and the local community. The legislature
9 further finds that when character education is integrated into a
10 school's curriculum there is a decline of incidences involving
11 violence, bullying, and harassment. The legislature intends to
12 encourage school districts to integrate character education into each
13 school's curriculum. The legislature further intends that local
14 communities, in partnership with schools or school districts, will have
15 the responsibility for determining which character traits and values
16 are included in each district or school's character education program.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.211 and 1994 c 245 s 10 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

1 (1) The legislature also recognizes that certain basic values and
2 character traits are essential to individual liberty, fulfillment, and
3 happiness. However, these values and traits are not intended to be
4 assessed or be standards for graduation. The legislature intends that
5 local communities have the responsibility for determining how these
6 values and character traits are learned as determined by consensus at
7 the local level. These values and traits include the importance of:

8 (~~(1)~~) (a) Honesty, integrity, and trust;

9 (~~(2)~~) (b) Respect for self and others;

10 (~~(3)~~) (c) Responsibility for personal actions and commitments;

11 (~~(4)~~) (d) Self-discipline and moderation;

12 (~~(5)~~) (e) Diligence and a positive work ethic;

13 (~~(6)~~) (f) Respect for law and authority;

14 (~~(7)~~) (g) Healthy and positive behavior; and

15 (~~(8)~~) (h) Family as the basis of society.

16 (2) Each school district is strongly encouraged to develop and
17 implement a character education program that incorporates into its
18 curriculum the character traits and values included in subsection (1)
19 of this section. Each school district is also strongly encouraged to
20 develop its character education program in partnership with parents and
21 all interested stakeholders in its local community. When developing a
22 character education program, school districts shall comply with the
23 open public meetings act in chapter 42.30 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Subject to availability of amounts
25 appropriated for this specific purpose, the office of the
26 superintendent of public instruction shall provide to each school
27 district that develops and implements a character education program, in
28 partnership with parents and all interested stakeholders in its local
29 community under the provisions of RCW 28A.150.211, an equal amount per
30 full-time equivalent elementary school student for the fiscal year
31 ending June 30, 2001. However, the minimum allocation to a district
32 shall be two hundred dollars for each elementary school operated by the
33 district.

34 (2) A school district that receives funding in accordance with this
35 section shall certify to the superintendent of public instruction that
36 funds received were expended for the purposes of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
2 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
3 June 30, 2000, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
4 void.

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