

HOUSE BILL No. 2459

By Representative Kelley

2-7

9 AN ACT concerning schools and school districts; relating to character
10 development programs; relating to the duties of the state board of
11 education.

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13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 Section 1. (a) The state board of education shall authorize and assist
15 in the implementation of programs on character development which shall
16 be offered to students in kindergarten and grades one through 12.

17 (b) The state board of education shall develop a curriculum, materials
18 and guidelines that local boards of education and governing authorities
19 of accredited nonpublic schools may use in implementing the program of
20 instruction on character development.

21 (c) The state board of education shall develop standards and objec-
22 tives for character development within any existing appropriate subject-
23 matter curriculum.

24 (d) Beginning in school year 2007-2008, each school district shall pro-
25 vide students in kindergarten and grades one through eight with character
26 development programs and instruction which are appropriate for the
27 grade-levels at which any such program or instruction is offered.

28 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring schools or
29 school districts to provide new programs or instruction if existing pro-
30 grams and instruction comply with the requirements of this section and
31 any rules and regulations adopted by the state board pursuant to this
32 section.

33 (f) As used in this section:

34 (1) "Character-development program" means a program such as
35 Character First or Character Counts or other similar program which is
36 secular in nature and which stresses character qualities.

37 (2) "Character qualities" means positive character qualities which in-
38 clude, but is not limited to, honesty, responsibility, attentiveness, pa-
39 tience, kindness, respect, self-control, tolerance, cooperation, initiative,
40 patriotism and citizenship.

41 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
42 publication in the statute book.