

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Promoting character development education in schools

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Overview

This bill proposes to encourage school districts to integrate character development into various facets of the education program and makes safe school levy proceeds, among other resources, available for this purpose.

Section

1 Character development education.

Subd. 1. Character development education. Encourages school districts to offer character education instruction using such programs as Character First and Character Counts. Encourages integrating instruction into existing programs, curriculum and the school environment. Directs the education commissioner to assist districts upon request to develop character education instruction and programs.

Subd. 2. Funding sources. Directs the commissioner to first use federal funds available for character development education programs. Allows school districts to accept funds from other sources for purposes of this section.

2 Violence prevention and character development education grants. Adds character development education to the purposes for which violence prevention grants are available.

Makes this section effective immediately.

3 Model policy. Allows the commissioner's model sexual, religious, and racial harassment and violence policy to encourage character development education programs in school

Section

districts.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 4** **Admission or readmission plan.** Allows school administrators to include a character education program as part of a dismissed student's readmission plan.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 5** **Policies to be established.** Requires school districts' student discipline policies to use character development or other programs to emphasize preventing student dismissals.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 6** **Program focus.** Allows area learning center programs to focus on character development.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 7** **Safe schools levy.** Allows school districts to use proceeds from the safe schools levy for character development programs.

Makes this section effective immediately.