

ASSEMBLY, No. 321

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblymen PASCARELL and ROCCO

1 AN ACT providing for the development of character education
2 programs and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that character education is a
9 legitimate and important function of public education, that character
10 education should convey to our young people the common core values
11 which have united our society, and that the identification of these
12 values should occur at the community level.

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14 2. As used in this act, "character education" means programs in the
15 schools intended to foster the development in each child of a
16 commitment to our society's common core values. Among these core
17 values may be compassion, courtesy, honesty, integrity, responsibility,
18 self-discipline, self-respect and tolerance.

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20 3. The Commissioner of Education shall prepare and disseminate
21 to boards of education materials which will assist local districts to
22 incorporate character education in their existing curricula.

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24 4. Boards of education are encouraged to include character
25 education in the curriculum for local districts. Boards which seek to
26 do so shall enlist community involvement in developing such
27 curriculum.

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29 5. The Commissioner of Education shall consider a viable character
30 education program to be an acceptable part of the curriculum of any
31 district and a legitimate expenditure of any district's State aid funds
32 under the "Quality Education Act of 1990," P.L.1990, c.52
33 (C.18A:7D-1 et al).

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35 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to prepare and disseminate to boards of education materials which will assist districts to incorporate character education in their existing curricula. The bill also encourages school districts to incorporate character education into their curricula and provides that districts which do so shall enlist community involvement in that process. As used in the bill, "character education" means programs intended to foster the development in each child of a commitment to our society's common core values.

Encourages the development of character education programs.