

FEB 14 2002

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2350

BY RAECKER

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act encouraging school districts to establish character  
 2 education programs, and directing the department of education  
 3 to partner with local educational institutions and agencies  
 4 and nonprofit organizations in the design and implementation  
 5 of character education programs.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2350

1 Section 1. Section 256.18, Code 2001, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 256.18 CHARACTER EDUCATION POLICY ---PILOT-PROGRAM.

4 1. It is the policy of the general assembly that Iowa's  
5 schools be the best and safest possible. To that end, each  
6 school is encouraged to instill the highest character and  
7 academic excellence in each student, in close cooperation with  
8 the student's parents, and with input from the community and  
9 educators.

10 Schools should make every effort, formally and informally,  
11 to stress character qualities that will maintain a safe and  
12 orderly learning environment, and that will ultimately equip  
13 students to be model citizens. These qualities may include  
14 ~~but-are-not-limited-to-honesty,-responsibility,-respect-and~~  
15 ~~care-for-the-person-and-property-of-others,-self-discipline,-~~  
16 ~~understanding-of,-respect-for,-and-obedience-to-law-and~~  
17 ~~citizenship,-courage,-initiative,-commitment,-and~~  
18 ~~perseverance,-kindness,-compassion,-service,-and-loyalty,-~~  
19 ~~fairness,-moderation,-and-patience,-and-the-dignity-and~~  
20 ~~necessity-of-hard-work~~ caring, civic virtue and citizenship,  
21 justice and fairness, respect, responsibility,  
22 trustworthiness, giving, and any other qualities deemed  
23 appropriate by a school.

24 2. The department of education shall assist schools in  
25 accessing financial and curricular resources to implement  
26 programs stressing these character qualities. Schools are  
27 encouraged to use their existing resources to implement  
28 programs stressing these qualities. Whenever possible, the  
29 department shall develop partnerships with schools, nonprofit  
30 organizations, or an institution of higher education, or with  
31 a consortium of two or more of those entities, to design and  
32 implement character education programs that may be integrated  
33 into classroom instruction and may be carried out with other  
34 educational reforms.

35 ~~2.--The-department-of-education-shall-establish-a-character~~

1 education-pilot-program-to-evaluate-methods-for-incorporating  
2 positive-character-qualities-into-all-levels-of-the-existing  
3 educational-program. Schools involved-in-the-pilot-program  
4 may use phase III funds in the establishment of the program.

5 3.--The-department-of-education-shall-report-to-the-state  
6 board-and-to-the-general-assembly-regarding-the-success-of-any  
7 pilot-programs-prior-to-the-completion-of-the-third-year-of-a  
8 program.

9 EXPLANATION

10 This bill strikes language establishing a character  
11 education pilot program, but maintains much of the language  
12 encouraging schools to make every effort to stress character  
13 education qualities. The bill provides that these qualities  
14 may include caring, civic virtue and citizenship, justice and  
15 fairness, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, giving,  
16 and any other qualities deemed appropriate by a school.

17 Currently, the Code requires the department of education to  
18 assist schools in accessing financial and curricular resources  
19 to implement character education programs. The bill adds to  
20 this requirement by directing the department to, whenever  
21 possible, develop partnerships with schools, nonprofit  
22 organizations, or an institution of higher education, or with  
23 a consortium of two or more of those entities, to design and  
24 implement character education programs that may be integrated  
25 into classroom instruction and may be carried out with other  
26 educational reforms.

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