

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 55

Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin

May 2, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 55—Relative to character education in public schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 55, as introduced, Mullin. Public schools: character education.

This measure would urge the State Board of Education, county offices of education, and local school governing bodies to examine their current practices and to increase emphasis on character, citizenship, and ethics.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, California's interest in character education has
2 been progressing from the 1980s, when Senator Albert Rodda
3 initiated a select bipartisan committee on character education.
4 Interest has since been advanced by the Superintendent of Public
5 Instruction, the State Board of Education, presidents of the United
6 States, and more recently, by state legislative and congressional
7 leaders; and
8 WHEREAS, Section 233.5 of the Education Code authorizes
9 the provisions of character education; and
10 WHEREAS, Good character, citizenship, and ethics are essential
11 to developing an inclusive society, to restoring public confidence
12 in our institutions, and in preparing literate, skilled, and responsible
13 participants in our schools, government, workplaces, and local
14 communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Character education addresses common virtues
2 and behaviors that support respect, responsibility, trustworthiness,
3 justice, fairness, caring, giving, service, leadership, initiative, and
4 teamwork; and

5 WHEREAS, Good character, citizenship, and ethics also relate
6 to the closing of the academic achievement and participation gaps
7 that currently exist between pupils in our public schools; and

8 WHEREAS, Implementing California's standards for core
9 subject matter areas may be enhanced by character education,
10 which may increase commitment to instructional priorities,
11 academic rigor, and discipline, and may improve school
12 performance and provide the opportunity for full citizenship; and

13 WHEREAS, Good character, citizenship, and ethics begin with
14 good role models and leadership in our homes, communities, and
15 schools; and

16 WHEREAS, The character, citizenship, and ethics that are
17 expected in our society and government, and the rights,
18 responsibilities, and participation of citizens should be a continual
19 and meaningful part of character education for every pupil in
20 prekindergarten through grade 12; and

21 WHEREAS, The importance of character, citizenship, and ethics
22 cannot be underestimated in establishing a positive school climate
23 for pupils, and is the shared responsibility of the entire education
24 community; now, therefore, be it

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges the State Board of
27 Education, county offices of education, and local school governing
28 bodies to examine current practices, to increase emphasis on
29 character, citizenship, and ethics in order to close the achievement
30 and participation gaps so that all pupils are successful, and to have
31 the highest ethical standards and practices demonstrated by school
32 officials; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of this resolution to the State Board of Education, the
35 Superintendent of Public Instruction, boards of education and
36 administrators of county offices and school districts, and to the
37 author for distribution.

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