

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2778

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/17/2016		Introduction and first reading Referred to Education

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to education; encouraging character development education to include
 1.3 a focus on Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; amending Minnesota
 1.4 Statutes 2014, section 120B.232.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 120B.232, is amended to read:

1.7 **120B.232 CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Character development education.** (a) The legislature encourages
 1.9 districts to integrate or offer instruction on character education including, but not limited
 1.10 to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence,
 1.11 gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and
 1.12 resourcefulness. Instruction should be integrated into a district's existing programs,
 1.13 curriculum, or the general school environment. The commissioner shall provide assistance
 1.14 at the request of a district to develop character education curriculum and programs.

1.15 (b) Character development education under paragraph (a) may include a voluntary
 1.16 elementary, middle, and high school program that incorporates the history and values of
 1.17 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and may be offered as part of the social studies,
 1.18 English language arts, or other curriculum, as a schoolwide character building and veteran
 1.19 awareness initiative, or as an after-school program, among other possibilities.

1.20 Subd. 1a. **Staff development; continuing education.** (a) Staff development
 1.21 opportunities under section 122A.60 may include training in character development
 1.22 education that incorporates the history and values of Congressional Medal of Honor
 1.23 recipients under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and is provided without cost to the interested
 1.24 school or district.

2.1 (b) Local continuing education and relicensure committees or other local relicensure
2.2 committees under section 122A.18, subdivision 4, are encouraged to approve up to six
2.3 clock hours of continuing education for licensed teachers who complete the training in
2.4 character development education under paragraph (a).

2.5 Subd. 2. **Funding sources.** The commissioner must first use federal funds for
2.6 character development education programs to the extent available under United States
2.7 Code, title 20, section 7247. Districts may accept funds from private and other public
2.8 sources for character development education programs developed and implemented under
2.9 this section, including programs funded through the Congressional Medal of Honor
2.10 Foundation, among other sources.

2.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.