

2532

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 19, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. MENG -- read once and referred to the Committee
on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring the public
school curriculum for children in kindergarten through grade twelve to
include a minimum of two hours per week instruction in civics lessons

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 801-a of the education law, as amended by chapter
2 482 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:
3 S 801-a. Instruction in civility, citizenship and character education.
4 1. The regents shall ensure that the course of instruction in grades
5 kindergarten through twelve includes a component on civility, citizen-
6 ship and character education. Such component shall instruct students on
7 the principles of honesty, tolerance, RACIAL AND GLOBAL HARMONY,
8 personal responsibility, MORALS, ETHICS, respect for others, observance
9 of laws and rules, courtesy, dignity and other traits which will enhance
10 the quality of their experiences in, and contributions to, the communi-
11 ty. THE INSTRUCTION SHALL EMPHASIZE THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF SUCH
12 LESSONS AND THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM IMPACT ON THE STUDENT'S LIFE
13 AND ON THE LIVES OF OTHERS OF IMPLEMENTING THE LESSONS.
14 2. THE BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND TRUSTEES OF THE CITIES AND SCHOOL
15 DISTRICTS OF THE STATE SHALL REQUIRE INSTRUCTION TO BE GIVEN IN SUCH
16 MATTERS FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF TWO HOURS PER WEEK, BY THE TEACHERS
17 EMPLOYED IN THE SCHOOLS THEREIN, COMMENCING WITH THE TWO THOUSAND NINE-
18 -TWO THOUSAND TEN SCHOOL YEAR. ALL PUPILS OVER THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS WHO
19 ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL RECEIVE SUCH INSTRUCTION.
20 3. The regents shall determine how to incorporate such component in
21 existing curricula and the commissioner shall promulgate any regulations
22 needed to carry out such determination of the regents. For the purposes
23 of this section, "tolerance," "respect for others" and "dignity" shall
24 include awareness and sensitivity to discrimination or harassment and

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD05573-01-1

1 civility in the relations of people of different races, weights,
2 national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental
3 or physical abilities, sexual orientations, genders, and sexes.
4 S 2. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same
5 manner as section 3 of chapter 482 of the laws of 2010, takes effect.