

Amendment No. 1 to SB2262

Gresham
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2262

House Bill No. 2250*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1007, is amended by adding the following as new subsection (g):

(1) Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, there is established a three-year pilot program to be operated by the department of education. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to provide grants to elementary and middle schools that wish to implement character education programs emphasizing leadership.

(2) Schools that wish to implement such character education programs shall apply to the department for a grant no later than January 1, 2017.

(3) The total amount of the grants provided by the department shall not exceed four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in the 2017-2018 school year, three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in the 2018-2019 school year, and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in the 2019-2020 school year.

(4)

(A) In awarding grants, the department shall:

(i) Award grants to schools filing applications that indicate that the school will institute a character education program with a strong emphasis on principles of leadership, such as the Leader in Me® program;

(ii) Award the grants to no fewer than seventy-five (75) schools and no more than one hundred (100) schools;

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(iii) Give preference first to priority schools, then to schools in LEAs with a fiscal capacity in the lowest fifty percent (50%) of all LEAs, and finally to all other schools that wish to participate; and

(iv) Strive to award grants to schools in all three (3) grand divisions of the state equally.

(B) If fewer than seventy-five (75) schools request the grant, the department shall award the grants to all schools that request grants.

(5) The amount of the grant given to each participating school shall be calculated by the department and shall be in an amount sufficient to pay for the full implementation of the character education program.

(6)

(A) The office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, with the assistance of the department of education, shall study the pilot program and shall issue a report to the education committee of the senate and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives on the effectiveness of the pilot program after the second year of the pilot program by no later than December 31, 2019.

(B)

(i) In conducting the study, OREA shall evaluate the teaching of character education using a strong emphasis on leadership by:

(a) Evaluating any improvement in the success of the students, in both academics and discipline; and

(b) Surveying teachers, administrators, and parents to determine their opinion as to the success or failure of character education programs that emphasize leadership.

(ii) OREA shall include the results of its evaluation and survey in the report required by subdivision (g)(6)(A).

(C) If OREA, in consultation with the department, finds that the results of the pilot program are promising, OREA may recommend in its report that the pilot program be continued and expanded.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.