

Character Education

The state of Alabama legislative support for character education started in 1995, Act(s) 1975 Code of Alabama, Section 16-6B-2(h); 1995 Accountability Law, Act 95-313.

Summary

The 1975 Code of Alabama mandates that ten minutes per day of character education are required for all k-12 students. The 1995 Accountability Law mandates character education. On April 20, 2001, Executive Order No. %0 was passed establishing the Alabama Advisory for Safe Schools. A 2005 program provides every fourth grade student in Alabama with state-sponsored access to STAR Sportsmanship-a web-based character and sportsmanship education program created by Learning Through Sports. The Alabama Department of Education provides funding for the sportsmanship education program through CLAS (Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools).

Direct Quotes from Legislation

“The State Board of Education and all local boards shall develop and implement a comprehensive character education program for all grades to consist of not less than ten minutes instruction per day focusing upon the students’ development of the following character traits: Courage, patriotism, citizenship, honesty, fairness, respect for others, kindness, cooperation, self-respect, self-control, courtesy, compassion, tolerance, diligence, generosity, punctuality, cleanliness, cheerfulness, school pride, respect for the environment, patience, creativity, sportsmanship, loyalty, and perseverance. Each plan of instruction shall include the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag” (1995 Accountability Law).