



Council for Lifelong Learning  
**Character Education**

**Fact  
Sheet**

September 2001

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| 1. Is character education required in Florida public schools?             | Yes. A character-development program similar to Character First or Character Counts must be taught in all public elementary schools. The character-development program must be secular in nature and must stress such character qualities as attentiveness, patience and initiative. |
| 2. Are schools encouraged to offer any other character education courses? | Yes. School districts are authorized and encouraged to provide students with programs and instruction at appropriate grade levels in character development, ethics, and law education.   |
| 3. What are the applicable statutes and rules?                            | Section 233.061, F.S. -- Required character education<br>Section 233.0612, F.S. -- Authorized character education  |
| 4. Where can I get additional information?                                | Department of Education<br>Division of Public Schools<br>(850) 488-2601<br><br>The Florida House of Representatives<br>Council for Lifelong Learning<br>(850) 414-6694   |