

By: Oliverson, Harris of Anderson, Buckley,
Garcia, Plesa, et al.

H.B. No. 2273

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to including an understanding of certain political
3 ideologies in the foundation curriculum in public schools.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsections (h-1) and (h-6) and adding Subsection (h-3) to
7 read as follows:

8 (h-1) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the
9 foundation curriculum under Subsection (a)(1), the State Board of
10 Education shall, as appropriate, adopt essential knowledge and
11 skills that develop each student's civic knowledge, including an
12 understanding of:

13 (1) the fundamental moral, political, and
14 intellectual foundations of the American experiment in
15 self-government;

16 (2) political ideologies, such as communism,
17 socialism, fascism, and totalitarianism, that conflict with the
18 principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding
19 principles of the United States;

20 (3) the history, qualities, traditions, and features
21 of civic engagement in the United States;

22 (4) [~~3~~] the structure, function, and processes of
23 government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels;

24 and

1 (5) [~~(4)~~] the founding documents of the United States,
2 including:

3 (A) the entirety of the Declaration of
4 Independence;

5 (B) the entirety of the United States
6 Constitution;

7 (C) the Federalist Papers, including the
8 entirety of Essays 10 and 51;

9 (D) excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's
10 Democracy in America;

11 (E) the transcript of the first Lincoln-Douglas
12 debate;

13 (F) the writings of the founding fathers of the
14 United States;

15 (G) the entirety of Frederick Douglass's
16 speeches "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" and "What the
17 Black Man Wants"; and

18 (H) the entirety of Martin Luther King Jr.'s
19 speech "I Have a Dream."

20 (h-3) In providing instruction regarding the political
21 ideologies described by Subsection (h-1)(2), a school district or
22 open-enrollment charter school shall use first-person accounts as
23 part of the instructional materials for the instruction.

24 (h-6) In providing instruction regarding the founding
25 documents of the United States as described by Subsection (h-1)(5)
26 [~~(h-1)(4)~~], a school district or open-enrollment charter school
27 shall use those documents as part of the instructional materials

1 for the instruction.

2 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
3 school year.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.