87R3571 MWC-F

By:  Gervin-Hawkins H.B. No. 2465

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring cultural inclusion curriculum as part of the enrichment curriculum for public schools.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1)  a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A)  English language arts;

(B)  mathematics;

(C)  science; and

(D)  social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

(2)  an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A)  to the extent possible, languages other than English;

(B)  health, with emphasis on:

(i)  physical health, including the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii)  mental health, including instruction about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making; and

(iii)  suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

(C)  physical education;

(D)  fine arts;

(E)  career and technology education;

(F)  technology applications;

(G)  religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; [~~and~~]

(H)  personal financial literacy; and

(I)  cultural inclusion.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0029 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0029.  CULTURAL INCLUSION CURRICULUM. (a) The State Board of Education shall develop curriculum on cultural inclusivity that a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall use in the district's or school's cultural inclusivity courses.

(b)  The curriculum must encourage:

(1)  a student's sense of self;

(2)  an acceptance of diversity through the identification and exploration of differences;

(3)  critical thinking about bias through the identification and exploration of discrimination and stereotypes;

(4)  empathy toward others; and

(5)  advocating for oneself in the face of bias.

(c)  In developing the curriculum under this section, the State Board of Education shall consult with interested parties and may create a work group of volunteers to make recommendations regarding the curriculum.

(d)  Before finalizing the curriculum developed under this section, the State Board of Education shall provide a reasonable period for public comment.

(e)  Subject to rules adopted by the State Board of Education, a school district or open-enrollment charter school may tailor the curriculum developed under this section as appropriate for the district's or school's community. In tailoring the instruction, the district or school shall solicit input from the State Board of Education, the agency, community members, and other interested individuals or organizations.

SECTION 3.  This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.