

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 828

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to requiring disability studies as part of the enrichment  
3 curriculum for public schools.

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

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

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

9 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

10 (A) English language arts;

11 (B) mathematics;

12 (C) science; and

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

16 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

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

19 (B) health, with emphasis on:

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

22 (ii) mental health, including instruction  
23 about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage  
24 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and

1 responsible decision-making; and  
2 (iii) suicide prevention, including  
3 recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;  
4 (C) physical education;  
5 (D) fine arts;  
6 (E) career and technology education;  
7 (F) technology applications;  
8 (G) religious literature, including the Hebrew  
9 Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on  
10 history and literature; ~~and~~  
11 (H) personal financial literacy; and  
12 (I) disability studies.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
14 amended by adding Section 28.0022 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 28.0022. DISABILITY STUDIES. (a) In this section,  
16 "ableism" means discrimination in favor of able-bodied persons.

17 (b) The Texas essential knowledge and skills and, as  
18 applicable, Section 28.025 shall include instruction in disability  
19 studies in:

20 (1) social studies instruction in kindergarten  
21 through grade eight; and

22 (2) one or more courses offered for high school  
23 graduation.

24 (c) Each school district and each open-enrollment charter  
25 school that offers a high school program shall provide an elective  
26 course in disability studies that meets the requirements for a  
27 one-half elective credit under Section 28.025, using materials

1 approved by the State Board of Education.

2 (d) The instruction in disability studies must include  
3 information regarding:

4 (1) disability identity;

5 (2) disability culture;

6 (3) the social model of disability;

7 (4) the disability rights movement;

8 (5) past and present leaders in the field of  
9 disability;

10 (6) federal and state law affecting persons with  
11 disabilities;

12 (7) exerting self-determination;

13 (8) engaging in self-advocacy; and

14 (9) concepts and theories to combat ableism.

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

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