

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 2465

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to requiring cultural inclusion curriculum as part of the
3 enrichment 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) cultural inclusion.

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

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

19 (b) The curriculum must encourage:

20 (1) a student's sense of self;

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

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

25 (4) empathy toward others; and

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

27 (c) In developing the curriculum under this section, the

1 State Board of Education shall consult with interested parties and
2 may create a work group of volunteers to make recommendations
3 regarding the curriculum.

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

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

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

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