

By: West

S.B. No. 1898

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to global and cultural studies instruction and mandatory
3 graduation requirements in public schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The legislature finds that comprehensive
6 curriculum positively impacts student achievement and allows for
7 long-term improvement in the overall operation, cooperation, and
8 productivity of the state. National studies have proven that there
9 are high social and educational benefits associated with
10 understanding divergent cultures, history, and perspectives.

11 (b) The purpose of this Act is to provide public school
12 students with a more comprehensive academic curriculum, while
13 proactively expanding student perspectives and cultural
14 competency. The state shall facilitate the comprehensive academic
15 curriculum through intentional curriculum planning and through
16 core credit reallocation.

17 SECTION 2. Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

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

21 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

22 (A) English language arts;

23 (B) mathematics;

24 (C) science; and

1 (D) social studies, consisting of Texas and [7]
2 United States [~~and world~~] history, government, economics, with
3 emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, global
4 studies, cultural studies, and geography; and

5 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

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

8 (B) health, with emphasis on:

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

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

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

17 (C) physical education;

18 (D) fine arts;

19 (E) career and technology education;

20 (F) technology applications;

21 (G) religious literature, including the Hebrew
22 Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on
23 history and literature; and

24 (H) personal financial literacy.

25 SECTION 3. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by
26 amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsection (j) to read as
27 follows:

1 (b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require
2 that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school
3 program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students
4 successfully complete:

5 (1) four credits in English language arts under
6 Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one
7 credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in
8 an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

9 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section
10 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in
11 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course
12 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

13 (3) three credits in science under Section
14 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any
15 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one
16 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional
17 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

18 (4) four [~~three~~] credits in social studies under
19 Section 28.002(a)(1)(D), including:

20 (A) one credit in United States history; [~~7~~]

21 (B) at least one-half credit in government;

22 (C) [~~and~~] at least one-half credit in economics;

23 (D) [~~7—and~~] one credit in global studies,

24 including:

25 (i) world geography; [~~or~~]

26 (ii) world history; or

27 (iii) an equivalent advanced placement or

1 international baccalaureate world history or world geography
2 course that does not count toward another credit required for
3 graduation; and

4 (E) one credit in cultural studies, including:

5 (i) African American history from 1619 to
6 present;

7 (ii) Asian American history;

8 (iii) Hispanic/Mexican American history;

9 (iv) Indigenous history;

10 (v) teachings of other persons or groups
11 who participated in large-scale immigration into the United States;

12 (vi) history of women and gender studies;

13 and

14 (vii) a comprehensive history course
15 addressing a combination of studies within the cultural studies
16 course options listed in Subparagraphs (i)-(vi);

17 (5) except as provided under Subsections (b-12),
18 (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language
19 other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);

20 (6) four [~~five~~] elective credits;

21 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section
22 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

23 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one
24 credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

25 (j) A school district shall provide at least two courses
26 that meet the requirements for a cultural studies course under
27 Subsection (b-1)(4)(E).

1 SECTION 4. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as amended
2 by this Act, applies only to students entering the ninth grade
3 during the 2022-2023 school year or a later school year. For
4 students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2022-2023
5 school year, Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as that
6 subsection existed before amendment by this Act, applies, and that
7 subsection is continued in effect for that purpose.

8 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.