

By: Taylor

S.B. No. 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to instruction in informed patriotism in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4.001, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4.001. Public Education Mission and Objectives.

(b) The objectives of public education are:

OBJECTIVE 1: Parents will be full partners with education in the education of their children

OBJECTIVE 2: Students will be encouraged and challenged to meet their full educational potential.

OBJECTIVE 3: Through enhanced dropout prevention efforts, all students will remain in school until they obtain a high school diploma.

OBJECTIVE 4: A well-balanced and appropriate curriculum will be provided to all students. Through that curriculum, students will be prepared to succeed in a variety of postsecondary activities, including employment and enrollment in institutions of higher education.

OBJECTIVE 5: Educators ~~will~~ must prepare cultivate in students an informed patriotism, which consists primarily of leading students through close study of America's and Texas' founding documents. This objective's purpose is to:

(A) ~~be~~ increase students' knowledge of their

1 country's and state's deepest and noblest purposes,
2 (B) enhance students' intellectual independence,
3 in order that they become thoughtful, ~~active~~ effective citizens who
4 have an appreciation for the ~~basic values~~ fundamental moral
5 principles of our state and national heritage, and

6 (C) guide students toward ~~who can~~ understanding and
7 productively functioning in a free enterprise society.

8 OBJECTIVE 6: Qualified and highly effective personnel will be
9 recruited, developed, and retained.

10 OBJECTIVE 7: The state's students will demonstrate exemplary
11 performance in comparison to national and international standards.

12 OBJECTIVE 8: School campuses will maintain a safe and
13 disciplined environment conducive to student learning.

14 OBJECTIVE 9: Educators will keep abreast of the development
15 of creative and innovative techniques and instruction and
16 administration using those techniques as appropriate to improve
17 student learning.

18 OBJECTIVE 10: Technology will be implemented and used to
19 increase the effectiveness of student learning, instructional
20 management, staff development, and administration.

21 OBJECTIVE 11: The State Board of Education, the agency, and
22 the commissioner, shall assist school districts and charter schools
23 in providing career and technology education to students.

24 SECTION 2. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 28.002. Required Curriculum. (h) The State Board of
27 Education and each school district shall require ~~foster~~ the

1 ~~continuation of the tradition of~~ teaching of United States informed
2 American patriotism and Texas history and the free enterprise
3 system ~~in regular subject matter and in reading courses and in the~~
4 adoption of instructional materials for kindergarten through grade
5 12. A primary purpose of the public school curriculum is to prepare
6 thoughtful, ~~active~~effective citizens who understand the importance
7 of patriotism and can function productively in a free enterprise
8 society with appreciation for the basic democratic ~~values~~moral
9 principles of our state and national heritage.

10 SECTION 3. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by
11 adding Subsection (h-1) to read as follows:

12 (h-1) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the
13 social studies curriculum, the State Board of Education shall adopt
14 essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's civic
15 knowledge, including an understanding of:

16 (1) the fundamental moral, political, and
17 intellectual foundations of the American experiment in
18 self-government, as well as the history, qualities, traditions, and
19 features of civics in the United States;

20 (2) the structure, function, and processes of
21 government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels;
22 and

23 (3) the Founding documents of the United States,
24 including the Declaration of Independence, the United States
25 Constitution, the Federalist Papers (including but not limited to
26 Essays 10 and 51), excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy
27 in America, the first Lincoln-Douglas debate, and the writings of

1 the Founding Fathers of the United States.

2 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
3 school year.

4 SECTION 5. 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, 2021.