

By: Ordaz

H.B. No. 4545

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to social studies curriculum in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.002(h-1) and (h-6), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(h-1) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the foundation curriculum under Subsection (a)(1), the State Board of Education shall, as appropriate, adopt essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's civic knowledge, including an understanding of:

(1) the fundamental moral, political, and intellectual foundations of the American experiment in self-government;

(2) the history, qualities, traditions, and features of civic engagement in the United States;

(3) the structure, function, and processes of government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels; ~~and~~

(4) the roles and contributions of culturally and racially diverse groups to the economic, political, and social development of this state and the United States, including the histories, contributions, and perspectives of:

(A) women;

(B) Native Americans, Indigenous Americans, and

1 American Indians;  
2 (C) African Americans;  
3 (D) Latinos;  
4 (E) Asian Americans;  
5 (F) Pacific Islanders;  
6 (G) persons who identify as lesbian, gay,  
7 bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or asexual;  
8 (H) persons with disabilities;  
9 (I) members of persecuted religious minorities;  
10 and  
11 (J) members of other ethnic and cultural groups  
12 that have contributed to the history of this state and the United  
13 States; and  
14 (5) the founding documents of the United States,  
15 including:  
16 (A) the entirety of the Declaration of  
17 Independence;  
18 (B) the entirety of the United States  
19 Constitution;  
20 (C) the Federalist Papers, including the  
21 entirety of Essays 10 and 51;  
22 (D) excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's  
23 Democracy in America;  
24 (E) the transcript of the first Lincoln-Douglas  
25 debate;  
26 (F) the writings of the founding fathers of the  
27 United States;

1 (G) the entirety of Frederick Douglass's  
2 speeches "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" and "What the  
3 Black Man Wants"; and

4 (H) the entirety of Martin Luther King Jr.'s  
5 speech "I Have a Dream."

6 (h-6) In providing instruction regarding the founding  
7 documents of the United States as described by Subsection (h-1)(5)  
8 [~~(h-1)(4)~~], a school district or open-enrollment charter school  
9 shall use those documents as part of the instructional materials  
10 for the instruction.

11 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024  
12 school year.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.