

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 659

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring cultural inclusion as part of the social studies curriculum for public schools.

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

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

(h-3) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the social studies curriculum for each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12, the State Board of Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that include the cultural inclusion curriculum developed under Section 28.0029.

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

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

(b) The curriculum must encourage:

(1) a student's sense of self;

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

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

1 (4) empathy toward others; and

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

3 (c) In developing the curriculum under this section, the
4 State Board of Education shall consult with the agency and
5 appropriate stakeholders and may create a work group of volunteers
6 to make recommendations regarding the curriculum.

7 (d) The State Board of Education, the agency, and
8 appropriate stakeholders shall enter into a memorandum of
9 understanding that establishes each entity's respective
10 responsibilities in developing cultural inclusion curriculum that
11 reflects the cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity of
12 society.

13 (e) Before finalizing the curriculum developed under this
14 section, the State Board of Education shall provide a reasonable
15 period for public comment.

16 (f) Subject to rules adopted by the State Board of
17 Education, a school district or open-enrollment charter school may
18 tailor the curriculum developed under this section as appropriate
19 for the district's or school's community. In tailoring the
20 instruction, the district or school shall solicit input from the
21 State Board of Education, the agency, community members, and other
22 interested individuals or organizations.

23 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
24 school year.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.