

By: Leach

H.B. No. 5077

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the essential knowledge and skills for the public school foundation curriculum and social studies curriculum.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.002(h-1) and (h-2), 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, organization, function, and processes of government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels; and

(4) the founding documents of the United States, including:

(A) the entirety of the Declaration of Independence;

(B) the entirety of the United States

1 Constitution;

2 (C) the Federalist Papers, including the
3 entirety of Essays 10, ~~[and]~~ 51, and 78;

4 (D) excerpts from *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137
5 (1803);

6 (E) excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's
7 Democracy in America;

8 (F) ~~[(E)]~~ the transcript of the first
9 Lincoln-Douglas debate;

10 (G) ~~[(F)]~~ the writings of the founding fathers of
11 the United States;

12 (H) ~~[(G)]~~ the entirety of Frederick Douglass's
13 speeches "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" and "What the
14 Black Man Wants"; and

15 (I) ~~[(H)]~~ the entirety of Martin Luther King
16 Jr.'s speech "I Have a Dream."

17 (h-2) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the
18 social studies curriculum for each grade level from kindergarten
19 through grade 12, the State Board of Education shall adopt
20 essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's civic
21 knowledge, including:

22 (1) an understanding of:

23 (A) the fundamental moral, political,
24 entrepreneurial, and intellectual foundations of the American
25 experiment in self-government;

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

1 (C) the structure, organization, function, and
2 processes of government institutions at the federal, state, and
3 local levels, with an emphasis on:

4 (i) the structure of the federal court
5 system and the court system of this state;

6 (ii) the role the judiciary, as a co-equal
7 branch of government, plays in providing checks and balances on
8 governmental power;

9 (iii) the selection of judicial
10 officeholders within the federal and state judicial systems, with
11 special consideration given to state and local officeholders of
12 this state;

13 (iv) the processing and flow of cases at all
14 court levels in this state;

15 (v) the role judges and juries play in the
16 criminal and civil justice systems; and

17 (vi) the sharing of governance between the
18 federal and state governments in a federalist system and the
19 interplay between the judicial examination of legal issues at the
20 federal and state level; and

21 (D) the founding documents of the United States;

22 (2) the ability to:

23 (A) analyze and determine the reliability of
24 information sources;

25 (B) formulate and articulate reasoned positions;

26 (C) understand the manner in which local, state,
27 and federal government works and operates through the use of

1 simulations and models of governmental and democratic processes;

2 (D) actively listen and engage in civil
3 discourse, including discourse with those with different
4 viewpoints; and

5 (E) participate as a citizen in a constitutional
6 democracy by voting; and

7 (3) an appreciation of:

8 (A) the importance and responsibility of
9 participating in civic life;

10 (B) a commitment to the United States and its
11 form of government; and

12 (C) a commitment to free speech and civil
13 discourse.

14 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
15 school year.

16 SECTION 3. 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, 2025.