

By: Flores

S.B. No. 1284

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to civics instruction in public schools, including certain
3 instructional requirements, civics training programs, and the
4 essential knowledge and skills for the public school foundation
5 curriculum and social studies curriculum.

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

7 SECTION 1. Sections 21.4555(b) and (c), Education Code, are
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (b) A civics training program developed under this section
10 must include training in:

11 (1) the essential knowledge and skills for the social
12 studies curriculum related to civic knowledge adopted under Section
13 28.002(h-2);

14 (2) guided classroom discussion of current events in a
15 way that prioritizes unity, understanding, and collaboration, as
16 appropriate for the grade level and consistent with the
17 restrictions under Section 28.0022;

18 (3) strategies for incorporating instruction on civil
19 discourse, as defined by commissioner rule, into classroom
20 discussion of current events under Subdivision (2);

21 (4) classroom simulations and models of governmental
22 and democratic processes, including local governmental processes
23 and structure, consistent with the requirements and restrictions of
24 Sections 28.002(h-2) and 28.0022;

1 (5) [(4)] media literacy, including instruction on
2 verifying information and sources, identifying and responding to
3 logical fallacies, identifying how journalism and governmental
4 transparency can inform the public and promote civic engagement,
5 and identifying propaganda, as appropriate for the grade level and
6 consistent with the restrictions under Section 28.0022; ~~and~~

7 (6) [(5)] strategies for incorporating civics
8 instruction into subject areas other than social studies; and

9 (7) identifying optional, nonpartisan volunteer
10 opportunities that are consistent with the requirements and
11 restrictions of Section 28.0022 to encourage students to connect
12 with their community through civic engagement.

13 (c) The commissioner by rule shall establish:

14 (1) the grade levels at which a teacher provides
15 instruction to be eligible to participate in a civics training
16 program. In making the determination, the commissioner shall
17 include grade levels for which the State Board of Education makes
18 significant revisions to the essential knowledge and skills for the
19 social studies curriculum under Section 28.002(h-2); and

20 (2) a list of approved volunteer opportunities that
21 meet the requirements of Subsection (b)(7).

22 SECTION 2. Sections 28.002(h-1) and (h-2), Education Code,
23 are amended to read as follows:

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

1 understanding of:

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

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

7 (3) the structure, function, and processes of
8 government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels,
9 including the division of powers between federal and state
10 governments and the legislative process in this state; and

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

13 (A) the entirety of the Declaration of
14 Independence;

15 (B) the entirety of the United States
16 Constitution;

17 (C) the Federalist Papers, including the
18 entirety of Essays 10 and 51;

19 (D) excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's
20 Democracy in America;

21 (E) the transcript of the first Lincoln-Douglas
22 debate;

23 (F) the writings of the founding fathers of the
24 United States;

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

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

3 (h-2) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the
4 social studies curriculum for each grade level from kindergarten
5 through grade 12, the State Board of Education shall adopt
6 essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's civic
7 knowledge, including:

8 (1) an understanding of:

9 (A) the fundamental moral, political,
10 entrepreneurial, and intellectual foundations of the American
11 experiment in self-government;

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

14 (C) the structure, function, and processes of
15 government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels,
16 including division of powers between federal and state governments
17 and the legislative process in this state; and

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

19 (2) the ability to:

20 (A) analyze and determine the reliability of
21 information sources;

22 (B) formulate and articulate reasoned positions;

23 (C) understand the manner in which local, state,
24 and federal government works and operates through the use of
25 simulations and models of governmental and democratic processes;

26 (D) actively listen and engage in civil
27 discourse, including discourse with those with different

1 viewpoints; and

2 (E) participate as a citizen in a constitutional
3 democracy by voting; and

4 (3) an appreciation of:

5 (A) the importance and responsibility of
6 participating in civic life;

7 (B) a commitment to the United States and its
8 form of government; and

9 (C) a commitment to free speech and civil
10 discourse.

11 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
12 school year.

13 SECTION 4. 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, 2025.