

By: Hagenbuch

S.B. No. 2802

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to courses to understand the United States and Texas
Constitutions for high school students in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to
read as follows:

(a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through
grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A) English language arts;

(B) mathematics;

(C) science; and

(D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United
States, and world history, government, United States Constitution
and Texas Constitution, economics, with emphasis on the free
enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

(2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A) to the extent possible, languages other than
English;

(B) health, with emphasis on:

(i) physical health, including the
importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii) mental health, including instruction
about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage

emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making; and

(iii) suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

(C) physical education;

(D) fine arts;

(E) career and technology education;

(F) technology applications; and

(G) religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature, and,

SECTION 2. Section 28.0021(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Each school district and each open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school program shall provide a ~~an~~ ~~elective~~ course in The United States Constitution and the Texas Constitution that meets the requirements for a one-half social studies ~~elective~~ credit under Section 28.025, using materials approved by the State Board of Education. In fulfilling the requirement to provide financial literacy instruction under this section, a school district or open-enrollment charter school may use an existing state, federal, private, or nonprofit program that provides students without charge the instruction described under this section.

SECTION 3. Sections 28.025(b-1) and (b-23), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require

1 that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school
2 program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students
3 successfully complete:

4 (1) four credits in English language arts under
5 Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one
6 credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in
7 an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

8 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section
9 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in
10 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course
11 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

12 (3) three credits in science under Section
13 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any
14 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one
15 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional
16 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

17 (4) three credits in social studies under Section
18 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at
19 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in
20 ~~[economics or]~~ The United States Constitution and the Texas
21 Constitution ~~[& economics]~~, and one credit in economics, world
22 geography, or world history;

23 (5) except as provided under Subsections (b-12),
24 (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language
25 other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);

26 (6) five elective credits;

27 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section

1 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

2 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one
3 credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

4 (b-23) The agency shall:

5 (1) develop a list of free, open-source, and publicly
6 available curricula that may be used by a school district to provide
7 a United States Constitution and Texas Constitution [~~& economics~~]
8 course that satisfies the curriculum requirement under Subsection
9 (b-1)(4); and

10 (2) seek, accept, and spend any federal or private
11 grant funds and gifts that are available for the purpose of
12 providing a United States Constitution and Texas Constitution [~~&
13 economics~~] course as part of the foundation high school program.

14 SECTION 4. Section 28.025(b-22), Education Code, is
15 repealed.

16 SECTION 5. Sections 28.0021(b) and 28.025(b-1), Education
17 Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to students entering the
18 ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year or a later school year.
19 For students entering a grade above ninth grade during the
20 2025-2026 school year, Sections 28.0021(b) and 28.025(b-1),
21 Education Code, as those sections existed before amendment by this
22 Act, apply, and those sections are continued in effect for that
23 purpose.

24 SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
25 school year.

26 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.