

By Senator Berman

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to required instruction; creating s.  
3       1003.4551, F.S.; beginning in a specified school year,  
4       requiring the Department of Education to annually  
5       verify that school districts, charter schools, and  
6       specified private schools implement certain  
7       instruction relating to the history of African  
8       Americans; defining the term "private school";  
9       specifying requirements for school districts, charter  
10      schools, and specified private schools relating to  
11      such instruction; requiring district school boards,  
12      charter school governing boards, and private school  
13      directors to adopt certain implementation plans;  
14      requiring district school superintendents, charter  
15      school principals, and private school directors to  
16      annually provide specified evidence to the department  
17      by a certain date; authorizing the State Board of  
18      Education to adopt rules; amending s. 1008.22, F.S.;  
19      requiring certain statewide, standardized assessments  
20      to include, when appropriate, curricula content from  
21      the history of African Americans; providing an  
22      effective date.

23  
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25  
26       Section 1. Section 1003.4551, Florida Statutes, is created  
27 to read:

28       1003.4551 School district, charter school, and private  
29 school implementation of required instruction on the history of

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30 African Americans.—

31 (1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the department  
32 shall annually verify that each school district, charter school,  
33 and private school implements the instruction required under s.  
34 1003.42(2)(h), relating to the history of African Americans,  
35 efficiently and faithfully throughout the school district's,  
36 charter school's, or private school's entire curriculum, as  
37 appropriate. For purposes of this section, the term "private  
38 school" means a private school that accepts scholarship students  
39 who participate in a state scholarship program under chapter  
40 1002.

41 (2) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each school  
42 district, charter school, and private school must:

43 (a) Develop, and each school board, charter school  
44 governing board, and private school director or similar  
45 administrator must adopt, a plan for the implementation of  
46 required instruction on the history of African Americans and  
47 publicize the plan in the school district's, charter school's,  
48 or private school's curriculum guides and on its website.

49 (b) Develop and implement an ongoing professional  
50 development plan for training instructional staff in strategies  
51 for teaching the history of African Americans. The school  
52 district, charter school, or private school must allocate  
53 adequate resources to structured professional development  
54 programs and for enhancing the instruction of the history of  
55 African Americans in an infused format.

56 (c) Integrate curricula for teaching the history of African  
57 Americans which meet the requirements of s. 1003.42(2)(h) as  
58 part of the school district's, charter school's, or private

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59 school's curriculum. Such curricula must be distributed to  
60 curriculum specialists, teachers, media specialists, and other  
61 instructional staff. The school district, charter school, or  
62 private school must ensure that adequate instructional  
63 resources, including, but not limited to, books, compact discs,  
64 digital media, and lesson plans, are available to support such  
65 instruction.

66 (d) Include content on the history of African Americans in  
67 lesson plans for the entire school year, as appropriate.

68 (e) Approve methods for teaching and assessing curricula on  
69 the history of African Americans.

70 (f) Include content on the history of African Americans in  
71 any preparations for statewide assessments, when appropriate.

72 (g) Include content on the history of African Americans in  
73 all appropriate subject areas.

74 (h) Partner with a state university for the development and  
75 implementation of professional development, curricula, and  
76 instructional support, including jointly seeking external  
77 funding and preparing teachers and other instructional staff to  
78 teach the history of African Americans.

79 (i) Develop strategies to involve parents in the  
80 implementation of the curricula for the history of African  
81 Americans, including through awareness information sessions.

82 (j) Partner with community members in the development and  
83 ongoing implementation of curricula on the history of African  
84 Americans.

85 (3) By August 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, each  
86 district school superintendent, charter school principal, and  
87 private school director or similar administrator shall provide

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88 to the department, in a format prescribed by the department,  
89 evidence of school district, charter school, and private school  
90 compliance with subsection (2).

91 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
92 administer this section.

93 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
94 1008.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

95 1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.—

96 (3) STATEWIDE, STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.—The  
97 Commissioner of Education shall design and implement a  
98 statewide, standardized assessment program aligned to the core  
99 curricular content established in the Next Generation Sunshine  
100 State Standards. The commissioner also must develop or select  
101 and implement a common battery of assessment tools that will be  
102 used in all juvenile justice education programs in the state.  
103 These tools must accurately measure the core curricular content  
104 established in the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.  
105 Participation in the assessment program is mandatory for all  
106 school districts and all students attending public schools,  
107 including adult students seeking a standard high school diploma  
108 under s. 1003.4282 and students in Department of Juvenile  
109 Justice education programs, except as otherwise provided by law.  
110 If a student does not participate in the assessment program, the  
111 school district must notify the student's parent and provide the  
112 parent with information regarding the implications of such  
113 nonparticipation. The statewide, standardized assessment program  
114 shall be designed and implemented as follows:

115 (a) *Statewide, standardized comprehensive assessments.*—The  
116 statewide, standardized Reading assessment shall be administered

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117 annually in grades 3 through 10. The statewide, standardized  
118 Writing assessment shall be administered annually at least once  
119 at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. When the  
120 Reading and Writing assessments are replaced by English Language  
121 Arts (ELA) assessments, ELA assessments shall be administered to  
122 students in grades 3 through 10. Retake opportunities for the  
123 grade 10 Reading assessment or, upon implementation, the grade  
124 10 ELA assessment must be provided. Students taking the ELA  
125 assessments shall not take the statewide, standardized  
126 assessments in Reading or Writing. Reading passages and writing  
127 prompts for ELA assessments shall incorporate grade-level core  
128 curricula content from social studies and, when appropriate,  
129 curricula content from the history of African Americans. The  
130 statewide, standardized Mathematics assessments shall be  
131 administered annually in grades 3 through 8. Students taking a  
132 revised Mathematics assessment shall not take the discontinued  
133 assessment. The statewide, standardized Science assessment shall  
134 be administered annually at least once at the elementary and  
135 middle grades levels. In order to earn a standard high school  
136 diploma, a student who has not earned a passing score on the  
137 grade 10 Reading assessment or, upon implementation, the grade  
138 10 ELA assessment must earn a passing score on the assessment  
139 retake or earn a concordant score as authorized under subsection  
140 (9).

141 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.