

By Senator Rodriguez

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to required instruction in the history  
3 of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; amending s.  
4 1003.42, F.S.; requiring that the history of Asian  
5 Americans and Pacific Islanders be taught in the  
6 public schools; requiring that instructional materials  
7 used in teaching this subject area include specified  
8 information; amending ss. 1006.148 and 1014.05, F.S.;  
9 conforming cross-references; providing an effective  
10 date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida  
15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1003.42 Required instruction.—

17 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
18 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
19 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
20 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
21 highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,  
22 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
23 approved methods of instruction, the following:

24 (a) The history and content of the Declaration of  
25 Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law, self-  
26 evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government,  
27 popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of life, liberty,  
28 and property, and how they form the philosophical foundation of  
29 our government.

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30 (b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the  
31 provisions of the Constitution of the United States and  
32 amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments  
33 that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution  
34 provides the structure of our government.

35 (c) The arguments in support of adopting our republican  
36 form of government, as they are embodied in the most important  
37 of the Federalist Papers.

38 (d) Flag education, including proper flag display and flag  
39 salute.

40 (e) The elements of civil government, including the primary  
41 functions of and interrelationships between the Federal  
42 Government, the state, and its counties, municipalities, school  
43 districts, and special districts.

44 (f) The history of the United States, including the period  
45 of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the  
46 Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present  
47 boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the  
48 present. American history shall be viewed as factual, not as  
49 constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, teachable, and  
50 testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation  
51 based largely on the universal principles stated in the  
52 Declaration of Independence.

53 (g)1. The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the  
54 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other  
55 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of  
56 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an  
57 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the  
58 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an

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59 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful  
60 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity  
61 in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting  
62 democratic values and institutions, including the policy,  
63 definition, and historical and current examples of anti-  
64 Semitism, as described in s. 1000.05(8), and the prevention of  
65 anti-Semitism. Each school district must annually certify and  
66 provide evidence to the department, in a manner prescribed by  
67 the department, that the requirements of this paragraph are met.  
68 The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum  
69 for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek  
70 input from the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on  
71 Holocaust Education or from any state or nationally recognized  
72 Holocaust educational organizations. The department may contract  
73 with any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational  
74 organizations to develop training for instructional personnel  
75 and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the  
76 developed curriculum.

77 2. The second week in November shall be designated as  
78 "Holocaust Education Week" in this state in recognition that  
79 November is the anniversary of Kristallnacht, widely recognized  
80 as a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.

81 (h) The history of African Americans, including the history  
82 of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to  
83 the development of slavery, the passage to America, the  
84 enslavement experience, abolition, and the history and  
85 contributions of Americans of the African diaspora to society.  
86 Students shall develop an understanding of the ramifications of  
87 prejudice, racism, and stereotyping on individual freedoms, and

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88 examine what it means to be a responsible and respectful person,  
89 for the purpose of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a  
90 pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic  
91 values and institutions. Instruction shall include the roles and  
92 contributions of individuals from all walks of life and their  
93 endeavors to learn and thrive throughout history as artists,  
94 scientists, educators, businesspeople, influential thinkers,  
95 members of the faith community, and political and governmental  
96 leaders and the courageous steps they took to fulfill the  
97 promise of democracy and unite the nation. Instructional  
98 materials shall include the vital contributions of African  
99 Americans to build and strengthen American society and celebrate  
100 the inspirational stories of African Americans who prospered,  
101 even in the most difficult circumstances. Instructional  
102 personnel may facilitate discussions and use curricula to  
103 address, in an age-appropriate manner, how the individual  
104 freedoms of persons have been infringed by slavery, racial  
105 oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination, as  
106 well as topics relating to the enactment and enforcement of laws  
107 resulting in racial oppression, racial segregation, and racial  
108 discrimination and how recognition of these freedoms has  
109 overturned these unjust laws. However, classroom instruction and  
110 curriculum may not be used to indoctrinate or persuade students  
111 to a particular point of view inconsistent with the principles  
112 enumerated in subsection (3) or the state academic standards.  
113 The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum  
114 for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek  
115 input from the Commissioner of Education's African American  
116 History Task Force.

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117           (i) The history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,  
118 including the immigration, citizenship, civil rights, identity,  
119 and culture of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the  
120 contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to  
121 American society. Instructional materials must include the  
122 contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to  
123 American society.

124           (j) The elementary principles of agriculture.

125           (k) ~~(j)~~ The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating  
126 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and  
127 mind.

128           (l) ~~(k)~~ Kindness to animals.

129           (m) ~~(l)~~ The history of the state.

130           (n) ~~(m)~~ The conservation of natural resources.

131           (o) ~~(n)~~ Comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally  
132 appropriate K-12 instruction on:

133           1. Health education that addresses concepts of community  
134 health, consumer health, environmental health, and family life,  
135 including:

136           a. Injury prevention and safety.

137           b. Internet safety.

138           c. Nutrition.

139           d. Personal health.

140           e. Prevention and control of disease.

141           f. Substance use and abuse.

142           g. Prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and  
143 human trafficking.

144           2. For students in grades 7 through 12, teen dating  
145 violence and abuse. This component must include, but not be

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146 limited to, the definition of dating violence and abuse, the  
147 warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the  
148 characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent  
149 and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources  
150 available to victims of dating violence and abuse.

151 3. For students in grades 6 through 12, awareness of the  
152 benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the  
153 consequences of teenage pregnancy.

154 4. Life skills that build confidence, support mental and  
155 emotional health, and enable students to overcome challenges,  
156 including:

157 a. Self-awareness and self-management.

158 b. Responsible decisionmaking.

159 c. Resiliency.

160 d. Relationship skills and conflict resolution.

161 e. Understanding and respecting other viewpoints and  
162 backgrounds.

163 f. For grades 9 through 12, developing leadership skills,  
164 interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;  
165 creating a resume, including a digital resume; exploring career  
166 pathways; using state career planning resources; developing and  
167 practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;  
168 workplace ethics and workplace law; managing stress and  
169 expectations; and self-motivation.

170  
171 Health education and life skills instruction and materials may  
172 not contradict the principles enumerated in subsection (3).

173 (p) ~~(e)~~ Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or  
174 fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of

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175 the State Board of Education and the district school board in  
176 fulfilling the requirements of law.

177 (q)~~(p)~~ The study of Hispanic contributions to the United  
178 States.

179 (r)~~(q)~~ The study of women's contributions to the United  
180 States.

181 (s)~~(r)~~ The nature and importance of free enterprise to the  
182 United States economy.

183 (t)~~(s)~~ Civic and character education on the qualities and  
184 responsibilities of patriotism and citizenship, including  
185 kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal  
186 property; honesty; charity; racial, ethnic, and religious  
187 tolerance; and cooperation and, for grades 11 and 12, voting  
188 using the uniform primary and general election ballot described  
189 in s. 101.151(9).

190 (u)~~(t)~~ In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices  
191 that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made in serving  
192 our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such  
193 instruction must occur on or before Medal of Honor Day,  
194 Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional  
195 staff are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans and  
196 Medal of Honor recipients when practicable.

197  
198 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
199 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.  
200 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the  
201 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
202 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
203 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness

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204 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u) ~~(t)~~.

205 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
206 1006.148, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

207 1006.148 Dating violence and abuse prohibited.—

208 (1) Each district school board shall adopt and implement a  
209 dating violence and abuse policy. The policy shall:

210 (c) Define dating violence and abuse and provide for a teen  
211 dating violence and abuse component in the health education  
212 curriculum, according to s. 1003.42(2)(o)2. ~~s. 1003.42(2)(n)2.~~,  
213 with emphasis on prevention education.

214 Section 3. Paragraphs (d) and (f) of subsection (1) of  
215 section 1014.05, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

216 1014.05 School district notifications on parental rights.—

217 (1) Each district school board shall, in consultation with  
218 parents, teachers, and administrators, develop and adopt a  
219 policy to promote parental involvement in the public school  
220 system. Such policy must include:

221 (d) Procedures, pursuant to s. 1002.20(3)(d), for a parent  
222 to withdraw his or her minor child from any portion of the  
223 school district's comprehensive health education required under  
224 s. 1003.42(2)(o) ~~s. 1003.42(2)(n)~~ that relates to sex education  
225 or instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome education  
226 or any instruction regarding sexuality if the parent provides a  
227 written objection to his or her minor child's participation.  
228 Such procedures must provide for a parent to be notified in  
229 advance of such course content so that he or she may withdraw  
230 his or her minor child from those portions of the course.

231 (f) Procedures for a parent to learn about parental rights  
232 and responsibilities under general law, including all of the



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233 following:

234 1. Pursuant to s. 1002.20(3)(d), the right to opt his or  
235 her minor child out of any portion of the school district's  
236 comprehensive health education required under s. 1003.42(2)(o)  
237 ~~s. 1003.42(2)(n)~~ that relates to sex education instruction in  
238 acquired immune deficiency syndrome education or any instruction  
239 regarding sexuality.

240 2. A plan to disseminate information, pursuant to s.  
241 1002.20(6), about school choice options, including open  
242 enrollment.

243 3. In accordance with s. 1002.20(3)(b), the right of a  
244 parent to exempt his or her minor child from immunizations.

245 4. In accordance with s. 1008.22, the right of a parent to  
246 review statewide, standardized assessment results.

247 5. In accordance with s. 1003.57, the right of a parent to  
248 enroll his or her minor child in gifted or special education  
249 programs.

250 6. In accordance with s. 1006.28(2)(a)1., the right of a  
251 parent to inspect school district instructional materials.

252 7. In accordance with s. 1008.25, the right of a parent to  
253 access information relating to the school district's policies  
254 for promotion or retention, including high school graduation  
255 requirements.

256 8. In accordance with s. 1002.20(14), the right of a parent  
257 to receive a school report card and be informed of his or her  
258 minor child's attendance requirements.

259 9. In accordance with s. 1002.23, the right of a parent to  
260 access information relating to the state public education  
261 system, state standards, report card requirements, attendance

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262 requirements, and instructional materials requirements.

263 10. In accordance with s. 1002.23(4), the right of a parent  
264 to participate in parent-teacher associations and organizations  
265 that are sanctioned by a district school board or the Department  
266 of Education.

267 11. In accordance with s. 1002.222(1)(a), the right of a  
268 parent to opt out of any district-level data collection relating  
269 to his or her minor child not required by law.

270 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.