

By Senator Bernard

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to required instruction; amending s.
1003.42, F.S.; providing requirements for instruction
on the study of Hispanic contributions to the United
States; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (2) of section
1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

(q) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United
States. Such instruction must include:

1. For grades K through 2, Hispanic American holidays,
symbols, and traditions; Hispanic Americans who have made
significant contributions to the country; how Hispanic Americans
fit into the broader American social fabric; and the importance
of respect, fairness, and kindness to all people.

2. For grades 3 through 5, Spanish exploration of the New
World; the role of Hispanic leaders in the defense of the United
States; influences of Hispanic culture in American life;
Hispanic Americans who have excelled in the arts and sciences,

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business, and education; Hispanic Americans who have demonstrated perseverance, courage, and civic responsibility; and how fairness, hard work, and equality strengthen democracy.

3. For grades 6 through 8, the impact of Spanish colonization and Hispanic communities on the growth of the United States; how United States expansion affected Hispanic populations; Hispanic contributions during significant periods of United States history; how Hispanic Americans overcame barriers to achieve equality and opportunity; how Hispanic American experiences reflect the nation's founding principles of liberty and equality; how prejudice, racism, and stereotyping limit individual freedoms; and how recognition of freedoms helps overturn unjust laws.

4. For grades 9 through 12, the role of Hispanic people in United States exploration, colonization, and expansion; Hispanic American participation in major United States conflicts; Hispanic American contributions to United States economic growth; the influence of Hispanic leaders in advancing civil rights; Hispanic American contributions to art, music, literature, science, and education; how Hispanic identity has evolved within American society; how hard work, merit, and responsibility align with the pursuit of happiness and success; instances where Hispanic Americans' freedoms were infringed upon and how those injustices were addressed; Hispanic American contributions to civic life and governance; and stories of Hispanic Americans who prospered through perseverance and innovation.

The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards

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and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.
Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the
recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is
offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.