

Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEAACH Act)

HB 376 – Rep. Gong–Gershowitz
SB 648 – Sen. Villivalam



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Why TEAACH?

Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing populations across Illinois, nearly 800,000 people as of 2017, yet our stories in history textbooks are nowhere to be found.

This erases the legacies and contributions of Asian Americans throughout history, leading to a less complete understanding of US history as a whole.



THERE ARE MORE THAN 100,000 ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS IN ILLINOIS



Impact

By ensuring that Asian American history is taught in our schools, we are laying a foundation for the future. Asian American students will learn stories that reflect their experiences.

All students will better understand Asian American communities, experiences, and histories.

1 IN 5 SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE >5% ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS



What does the TEAACH Act do?



- 1 Amends the Illinois School Code to require that a unit of Asian American History is taught in all public schools.
- 2 Pairs with the release of a five-hour PBS film series and K-12 curricula, compliant with Common Core and National Standards.
- 3 Ensures that Asian American stories and experiences are taught, not just the stories of Asians outside the United States.
- 4 Improves cross-cultural education and helps combat discrimination, racist stereotypes, and xenophobia.

All of the PBS curricula available through the Asian Americans collection can be found here:
<https://illinois.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/asian-americans-pbs/>

Lead Organization

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago

Steering Committee Members

Cambodian Association of Illinois
Chinese Mutual Aid Association
Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community
HANA Center
Indo-American Center
Japanese American Citizens League Chicago
Japanese American Service Committee

Supporting Organizations

ADL Midwest
Axis Lab
Chicago History Museum
Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
Chicago Teachers Union
Chinese American Museum of Chicago
Chinese American Service League
CIRCA-Pintig
Department of Asian American Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Equality Illinois
Global Asian Studies Program, DePaul University
Global Asian Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago
Hamdard Health Center
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Illinois Council for the Social Studies
Illinois Families for Public Schools
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center
Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition
Jewish Federation of Chicago
KAN-WIN
Lao American Organization of Elgin
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, Chicago Chapter
National Association of Social Workers, IL Chapter
Northwestern University Asian American Studies Program
OCA Chicago
Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education
The People's Lobby
Vietnamese Association of Illinois