

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) The State of California is committed to providing excellent educational opportunities to all of its pupils.
- (b) There are 92 languages other than English spoken throughout the state, with the primary languages being Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- (c) There is a growing body of academic research that shows the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum.
- (d) Based on the National Education Association (NEA) publication, The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies, the inclusion of ethnic studies in a curriculum has a positive impact on pupils of color.
- (e) Ethnic studies benefit pupils in observable ways, such as pupils becoming more academically engaged, increasing their performance on academic tests, improving their graduation rates, and developing a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment.
- (f) The state's educational standards should be guided by core values of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations.
- (g) The state is committed to its efforts to provide all pupils with excellent educational opportunities, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, income, sexual orientation, or disability.
- (h) The state is committed to its obligation to ensure its youth are college prepared and career ready, while graduating 100 percent of its pupils.



(i) The implementation of various ethnic studies courses within California's curriculum that are A-G approved, with the objective of preparing pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for the contributions of multiple cultures, will close the achievement gap, reduce pupil truancy, increase pupil enrollment, reduce dropout rates, and increase graduation rates.

(j) The state should support efforts in recruiting and retaining teachers who have relevant experience and educational background in the study or teaching of ethnic studies.

SEC. 2. Section 51226.7 is added to the Education Code, to read:

51226.7. (a) The Superintendent shall oversee the development of, and the state board shall adopt, a model curriculum to ensure quality courses of study in ethnic studies through partnerships with universities with ethnic studies programs. The model curriculum shall meet the A-G approval requirements of the Regents of the University of California.

(b) On or before the beginning of the 2017–18 school year, the Instructional Quality Commission shall advise, assist, and make recommendations to the Superintendent regarding the development of the model curriculum pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) Beginning the school year following the adoption of the model curriculum pursuant to subdivision (a), each school district maintaining grade 9 shall offer to all otherwise qualified pupils in that grade, as an elective in the social sciences, a course of study in ethnic studies based on the model curriculum.



SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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