The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an article to read:

ARTICLE XVII-D

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

Section 1701-D. Scope of article.

This article establishes a pilot program to provide instruction to students on the political, economic and social contributions of individuals with disabilities.

Section 1702-D. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this article...
shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department." The Department of Education of the Commonwealth.

"Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school entity, wherein a resident of this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

"Pilot program." The Disability Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program established under this article.

"Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o).

"School entity." A school district, joint school district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate area or area career and technical school.

Section 1703-D. Pilot program.

(a) Establishment.--The department shall establish a Disability Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program to provide instruction to students on the political, economic and social contributions of individuals with disabilities.

(b) Operation.--The pilot program shall operate for three full school years, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

(c) Selection of school entities.--

(1) The department shall select no less than eight school entities or nonpublic schools to participate in the pilot program in accordance with the following:

   (i) Six of the participants in the pilot program shall include at least one of each of the following:

   (A) A school district.

   (B) A charter school.
(C) A cyber charter school.
(D) A regional charter school.

(ii) Two of the participants in the pilot program shall be nonpublic schools.

(2) To be eligible for the pilot program, the school entity or nonpublic school must submit a proposal to the department no more than six months after the effective date of this section that identifies how the school entity or nonpublic school will meet the guidelines of the pilot program established by the department.

Section 1704-D. Department responsibilities.

(a) Funding.--The department shall apply for Federal, private and other non-State funds and shall use funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the department for the pilot program.

(b) Consultation.--

(1) No later than three months after the effective date of this section, the department shall establish and consult with an advisory committee in establishing, operating and evaluating the pilot program.

(2) The advisory committee shall be composed of representatives from all of the following:

(i) The State Board of Education.
(ii) A special education advocate.
(iii) A special education advisory panel.
(iv) The Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network.
(v) School districts.
(vi) Intermediate units.
(vii) Nonpublic schools.
(viii) Statewide professional teacher associations.
(ix) Parents, guardians or caretakers of students with disabilities.
(x) Individuals with disabilities.
(xi) School entities that provide instruction to students with disabilities.
(xii) Charter schools.
(xiii) Pennsylvania Charter Schools for the Deaf and Blind.
(xiv) Approved private schools.

(3) The advisory committee shall be comprised of no less than 75% of individuals with disabilities who are geographically diverse throughout this Commonwealth.

(c) Guidelines.--No later than three months after the effective date of this section, the department shall establish guidelines and procedures for the pilot program using the suggested curriculum provided by the advisory committee under subsection (b). The department may alter the suggested curriculum provided by the advisory committee under subsection (b) before establishing guidelines and procedures for the pilot program.

Section 1705-D. Pilot program evaluation.

(a) Report by school entities.--A participating school entity or nonpublic school shall annually report to the department data and information about the operation of the pilot program, in the manner prescribed by the department. At a minimum, a participating school entity or nonpublic school shall annually report to the department about how the participating school entity or nonpublic school met the objectives of the pilot program and the difficulties encountered in seeking to
meet the objectives of the pilot program.

(b) Evaluation.--The department shall contract with a nationally recognized educational evaluation institution or organization to provide an evaluation of the pilot program to review the effectiveness of the implementation of a curriculum inclusive to individuals with a disability. The evaluation shall be published on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

(c) Report by department.--The department shall compile an annual report based on the data and information received about the operation of the pilot program under subsection (a). The department shall annually submit the report under this subsection to all of the following:

(1) The chair and minority chair of the Education Committee of the Senate.

(2) The chair and minority chair of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.