
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1917 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY KIM, FRANKEL, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, ISAACSON, HILL-
EVANS, FREEMAN, DELLOSO, McCLINTON, HOHENSTEIN, SANCHEZ,
HOWARD, MALAGARI, INNAMORATO, HANBIDGE, SAMUELSON,
SHUSTERMAN, T. DAVIS AND O'MARA, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for Asian-American and Pacific Islander history
7 instruction.

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

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

13 Section 1555. Asian-American and Pacific Islander History
14 Instruction.--(a) The Department of Education shall develop a
15 model curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade
16 twelve on Asian-American and Pacific Islander history.

17 (b) The instruction under subsection (a) shall:

18 (1) Be age appropriate.

19 (2) Be sequential in method of study.

1 (3) Communicate the connection between national, ethnic or
2 racial intolerance.

3 (4) Communicate the impact of personal responsibility, civic
4 engagement and societal response within the context of paragraph
5 (3).

6 (c) A school entity may utilize appropriate public or
7 private resources to develop and implement this section. The
8 Department of Education shall distribute information about
9 appropriate curriculum materials to each school entity.

10 (d) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each school
11 entity may offer instruction on Asian-American and Pacific
12 Islander history and the social, political and economic
13 contributions of members of the Asian-American and Pacific
14 Islander community. This instruction may be integrated within
15 the social studies and language arts course of study required in
16 accordance with State Board of Education regulations.
17 Instruction may also be integrated into other appropriate
18 courses of study.

19 (e) The Department of Education may contract with and work
20 in consultation with other organizations to develop curriculum
21 under this section, including the Governor's Advisory Commission
22 on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

23 (f) The curriculum under this section may include the
24 history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Pennsylvania
25 and the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the
26 United States as a whole, including the contributions of Asian
27 Americans and Pacific Islanders toward advancing civil rights
28 from the 19th century onward. The curriculum may also include
29 contributions made by individual Asian Americans and Pacific
30 Islanders in government and the arts, humanities and sciences,

1 as well as the contributions of Asian-American and Pacific
2 Islander communities to the economic, cultural, social and
3 political development of the United States.

4 (g) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the Department
5 of Education shall make available to all school entities the
6 curriculum described under this section, including any and all
7 appropriate curriculum information and materials. The Department
8 of Education shall also provide curriculum guidelines, in-
9 service training programs and any other materials developed for
10 the curriculum to any nonpublic school upon request.

11 (h) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each school
12 entity shall provide programs on Asian-American and Pacific
13 Islander history for instructors, utilizing the Department of
14 Education's curriculum as part of the Department of Education's
15 in-service training programs. School employes shall receive
16 continuing professional education credits for engaging in in-
17 service training programs developed under this section.

18 (i) The State Board of Education shall:

19 (1) Conduct a study on instruction offered in Asian-American
20 and Pacific Islander history.

21 (2) Request that each school entity provide the State Board
22 of Education with information concerning whether the school
23 entity offers instruction in Asian-American and Pacific Islander
24 history and the manner in which that instruction is offered.

25 (3) Issue a report on the instruction of Asian-American and
26 Pacific Islander history in the 2023-2024 school year no later
27 than November 30, 2024, to the Governor, the Secretary of
28 Education, the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
29 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
30 minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of

1 Representatives.

2 (j) The State Board of Education report under subsection (i)
3 shall include the following:

4 (1) The number of school entities offering instruction in
5 Asian-American and Pacific Islander history.

6 (2) The number of school entities using the curriculum and
7 guidelines established by the Department of Education.

8 (3) The number of school entities using the in-service
9 training programs made available by the Department of Education
10 under this section.

11 (4) A description of how school entities are offering
12 instruction in Asian-American and Pacific Islander history,
13 which shall include:

14 (i) The number of hours of instruction offered.

15 (ii) The grade levels at which instruction is offered.

16 (iii) The course or courses in which the instruction is
17 integrated.

18 (iv) Recommendations for improvements to the offering of
19 instruction in Asian-American and Pacific Islander history,
20 including recommended legislation.

21 (k) The Department of Education shall promulgate regulations
22 necessary for the implementation of this section. If the report
23 and study conducted by the State Board of Education under
24 subsection (i) demonstrates that less than ninety percent of
25 school entities offer instruction in Asian-American and Pacific
26 Islander history consistent with the instruction and curriculum
27 provided by the Department of Education, then the Department of
28 Education shall adopt regulations to require all school entities
29 to offer instruction in Asian-American and Pacific Islander
30 history.

1 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"
2 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter
3 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area career
4 and technical school.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.