

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 779 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY KIM, SIEGEL, ISAACSON, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, GUENST, SOLOMON, CIRESI, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, D. WILLIAMS, FREEMAN, KHAN, YOUNG, HOWARD, CONKLIN, FRANKEL, KRAJEWSKI, BRENNAN AND O'MARA, MARCH 30, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 30, 2023

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 2024-2025 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 courses of study required  
16 in 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 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 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 2025-2026 school year no later  
27 than November 30, 2026, 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, 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.