

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 434 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, GROVE, T. DAVIS, HILL-EVANS, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, MEHAFFIE, RABB, ULLMAN, JAMES, YOUNGBLOOD, DRISCOLL, SAYLOR, FREEMAN, ISAACSON, NEILSON, WEBSTER, STURLA, ROEBUCK, FRANKEL, KORTZ, OTTEN, BURGOS AND KENYATTA, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 21, 2019

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 certification of teachers,
6 providing for a cultural awareness COMPETENCE continuing <--
7 professional development course--; AND, IN TERMS AND COURSES <--
8 OF STUDY, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE AND HUMAN
9 RIGHTS VIOLATIONS INSTRUCTION.

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

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

15 Section 1218. Cultural Awareness COMPETENCE Continuing <--
16 Professional Development Course.--(a) The Department of <--
17 Education DEPARTMENT shall develop and implement a continuing <--
18 professional education course on cultural awareness COMPETENCE <--
19 that may be used by professional educators to satisfy the <--

1 requirements of section 1205.2.: <--

2 (1) PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
3 SECTION 1205.2.

4 (2) SCHOOL OR SYSTEM LEADERS TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
5 SECTION 1205.5.

6 (3) PARAPROFESSIONALS TO SATISFY STAFF DEVELOPMENT  
7 REQUIREMENTS UNDER 22 PA. CODE § 14.105 (RELATING TO PERSONNEL).

8 (b) The ~~Department of Education~~ DEPARTMENT shall develop the <--  
9 continuing professional education course in a manner which  
10 provides professional educators with information and strategies  
11 which can be incorporated into instruction and general  
12 interactions with students in order to encourage students to  
13 become more culturally aware COMPETENT. <--

14 (c) The continuing professional education course shall BE <--  
15 RESEARCH-BASED AND include training on the following:

16 (1) Information and strategies to encourage students to  
17 become more culturally aware COMPETENT, and to reject ethnic, <--  
18 cultural and religious biases.

19 (2) Resolving disputes between students that result from  
20 ethnic and cultural disputes.

21 (3) Resolving disputes between students that result from  
22 religious biases.

23 (4) The dynamics of prejudice and discrimination that impede  
24 effective learning.

25 (5) Civil rights awareness.

26 (6) Intellectual, physical and behavioral disability  
27 awareness.

28 (d) Continuing professional education course materials may  
29 include the following:

30 (1) Materials that educate students in cultural sensitivity

1 by introducing the students to various cultures.

2 (2) Teaching aids that allow students to explore cultures  
3 through food, art, books, movies, dance, traditions and cross-  
4 cultural experiences.

5 (3) Resources that allow students to explore the cultural  
6 experience of other people, their history, present-day  
7 experiences and connection to the American culture and fabric of  
8 our land.

9 (4) Educational aids that provide students with information  
10 on the cultural experiences of the inhabitants of this  
11 Commonwealth, the inhabitants' experiences arriving in this  
12 Commonwealth and development over the years.

13 (e) By July 31, 2020, and each July 31 thereafter, the  
14 Department of Education DEPARTMENT shall submit to the <--  
15 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Education Committee  
16 of the Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of  
17 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives a report  
18 which shall include:

19 (1) The number of professional educators that have enrolled  
20 in the continuing professional education course.

21 (2) The number of professional educators that have completed  
22 the continuing education course.

23 (3) The number of ~~schools~~ SCHOOL ENTITIES that have <--  
24 implemented classroom instruction in cultural awareness.

25 (4) Any issues that professional educators, administrators,  
26 students or the ~~Department of Education~~ DEPARTMENT have <--  
27 identified and need to be addressed.

28 (f) The course established under subsection (a) shall be  
29 voluntary, offered online and at no cost to professional  
30 educators.

1 ~~(g) For the purpose of this section, the term "professional <--~~  
2 ~~educator" shall mean an individual who holds a Pennsylvania~~  
3 ~~teacher, educational specialist or administrative certification~~  
4 ~~or letter of eligibility.~~

5 (G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE TRAINING MATERIALS EVERY <--  
6 FIVE (5) YEARS AND ISSUE REVISIONS IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE BEST  
7 PRACTICE IN THE FIELD.

8 (H) THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPROVE OTHER PROVIDERS OF CONTINUING  
9 EDUCATION AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT THAT MEETS THE CRITERIA OF THIS  
10 SECTION.

11 (I) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION:

12 "CULTURAL COMPETENCE" SHALL MEAN THE ABILITY TO INTERACT  
13 EFFECTIVELY WITH PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT CULTURES, INCLUDING THE  
14 FOLLOWING:

15 (1) AWARENESS OF A PERSON'S OWN CULTURAL WORLDVIEW.

16 (2) ATTITUDE TOWARDS CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.

17 (3) KNOWLEDGE OF DIFFERENT CULTURAL PRACTICES AND  
18 WORLDVIEWS.

19 (4) CROSS-CULTURAL SKILLS.

20 "CULTURE" SHALL MEAN AN INDIVIDUAL'S UNDERSTANDING AND  
21 OBSERVANCE OF SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES AMONG AND BETWEEN  
22 CULTURAL GROUPS. THE TERM INCLUDES THE INTEGRATED PATTERNS OF  
23 HUMAN BEHAVIOR SUCH AS THOUGHTS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACTIONS,  
24 CUSTOMS, BELIEFS, VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS OF RACIAL, ETHNIC,  
25 RELIGIOUS OR SOCIAL GROUPS.

26 "DEPARTMENT" SHALL REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF  
27 THE COMMONWEALTH.

28 "PARAPROFESSIONAL" SHALL MEAN AN INSTRUCTIONAL  
29 PARAPROFESSIONAL WITHIN THE MEANING OF 22 PA. CODE § 14.105  
30 (RELATING TO PERSONNEL).

1 "PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS  
2 PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 1205.2.

3 "SCHOOL ENTITY" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED UNDER  
4 SECTION 1205.2.

5 "SCHOOL OR SYSTEM LEADERS" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS  
6 PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 1205.5.

7 SECTION 2. SECTION 1554 HEADING, (A), (B) AND (C) OF THE ACT  
8 ARE AMENDED TO READ:

9 SECTION 1554. HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
10 VIOLATIONS AND CULTURAL AWARENESS INSTRUCTION.-- (A) (1)  
11 BEGINNING WITH SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016, EACH SCHOOL ENTITY MAY  
12 OFFER INSTRUCTION IN THE HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
13 VIOLATIONS TO STUDENTS. BEGINNING WITH SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021,  
14 EACH SCHOOL ENTITY MAY OFFER INSTRUCTION IN CULTURAL AWARENESS.  
15 THE INSTRUCTION SHALL BE INTEGRATED WITHIN THE SOCIAL STUDIES  
16 AND LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES OF STUDY REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
17 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULATIONS. INSTRUCTION MAY ALSO BE  
18 INTEGRATED INTO OTHER APPROPRIATE COURSES OF STUDY.

19 (2) THE [HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS]  
20 INSTRUCTION PERMITTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (1) SHALL:

21 (I) BE AGE APPROPRIATE.

22 (II) BE SEQUENTIAL IN METHOD OF STUDY.

23 (III) COMMUNICATE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN NATIONAL, ETHNIC,  
24 RACIAL [OR], RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL INTOLERANCE AND THE SUBJECTS  
25 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (B).

26 (IV) COMMUNICATE THE IMPACT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY,  
27 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIETAL RESPONSE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE  
28 SUBJECTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (B).

29 (3) SCHOOL ENTITIES MAY UTILIZE ANY APPROPRIATE PUBLIC OR  
30 PRIVATE MATERIALS, PERSONNEL AND OTHER RESOURCES IN DEVELOPING

1 AND IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION PERMITTED PURSUANT  
2 TO PARAGRAPH (1). THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE  
3 INFORMATION ABOUT APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM MATERIALS TO EACH  
4 SCHOOL ENTITY. SCHOOL ENTITIES MAY UTILIZE ANY CURRICULUM THAT  
5 COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

6 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH  
7 CURRICULUM GUIDELINES [NO LATER THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS AFTER  
8 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION] TO FOSTER IMPLEMENTATION OF  
9 THIS SECTION BY SCHOOL ENTITIES. THE GUIDELINES SHALL ENCOURAGE  
10 THE INCLUSION OF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WHERE APPROPRIATE  
11 IN THE INSTRUCTION:

12 (I) THE BREADTH OF THE HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST, INCLUDING  
13 THE THIRD REICH DICTATORSHIP, CONCENTRATION CAMP SYSTEM,  
14 PERSECUTION OF JEWS AND NON-JEWS, JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH  
15 RESISTANCE AND POST-WORLD WAR II TRIALS.

16 (II) THE DEFINITION, HISTORY, RESPONSE AND ACTIONS TAKEN IN  
17 THE FACE OF GENOCIDE, INCLUDING THE HOLOCAUST AND ANY OTHER  
18 GENOCIDE PERPETRATED AGAINST HUMANITY, INCLUDING THE RWANDAN  
19 GENOCIDE AND OTHER GENOCIDES COMMITTED IN AFRICA, ASIA AND  
20 EUROPE.

21 (III) HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

22 (IV) ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM AND THE ABRIDGMENT OF CIVIL  
23 RIGHTS.

24 (V) CULTURAL AWARENESS AND REJECTION OF ETHNIC, CULTURAL AND  
25 RELIGIOUS BIASES.

26 (VI) RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES THAT RESULT FROM ETHNIC AND  
27 CULTURAL DISPUTES AND RELIGIOUS BIASES.

28 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL WORK IN CONSULTATION  
29 WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL  
30 EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES RELATED TO THE HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE AND

1 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO DEVELOP THE CURRICULUM GUIDELINES.  
2 THE GUIDELINES SHALL STATE THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF INSTRUCTION  
3 NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY EDUCATE STUDENTS ON THE HOLOCAUST,  
4 GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ON CULTURAL AWARENESS.

5 (C) [BEGINNING WITH THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR, THE] THE  
6 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE, TO ALL SCHOOL  
7 ENTITIES, IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS BASED UPON THE  
8 INSTRUCTION PROVIDED FOR UNDER SUBSECTION (A) AND THE CURRICULUM  
9 GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (B).

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11 Section 2 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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