

## Your Question:

You asked for information on states that have implemented culturally responsive curriculum requirements since 2010. You specifically referenced legislation in Florida.

## Our Response:

In recent years, a few states have passed legislation directly related to the inclusion of some degree of multicultural education in their state standards and/or curriculum. While Education Commission of the States' state policy tracking resource maintains information going back as far as the early 1990s in [some issue areas](#), there is somewhat limited information available regarding bills prior to the year 2000. Generally, however, there was a trend of including African American history in curriculum/standards in the 1990s in some states, including Arkansas, Colorado and Florida.

[Florida law \(1003.42\)](#) requires that public schools must teach African American history, including the history before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, and abolition. The law also mandates that instructional materials must include the contributions of African Americans to American society. The inclusion of African American history was mandated by legislation enacted in 1994. Below are examples of legislation related to multicultural requirements in history standards/curriculum over the last five years.

## History Curriculum Requirements

There have been several bills passed in the last decade broadly related to multicultural curriculum requirements. These bills include changes to history curriculum and standards around such issues as multicultural education, gender issues, holocaust and genocide, religious freedom, LGBTQ issues and African American history. Below are a few examples of bills enacted over the last five years.

- [Colorado HB 1192 \(2019\)](#) mandates funding instruction in public schools of history and civil government of the United States and Colorado, including but not limited to the history, culture, and social contributions of American Indians, Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans; the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals within these minority groups; and the intersectionality of significant social and cultural features within these communities.
- [Connecticut HB 7082 \(2019\)](#) adds African American, Puerto Rican and Latino studies to the required programs of study for public schools and requires all local and regional boards of education to include these topics in their curriculum beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.
- [Maryland SB 879 \(2019\)](#) requires public schools to devote a part of at least one school day to appropriate exercises that relate to Black History Month, with an emphasis on Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass and the contributions they made to the fight against slavery.
- [West Virginia HB 2422 \(2019\)](#) adds the Emancipation Proclamation to the required documents to be studied during Celebrate Freedom Week.
- [Illinois HB 4346 \(2018\)](#) requires that black history be taught in every public elementary school and high school through an online program or course.
- [Oklahoma HB 3221 \(2018\)](#) requires the social studies curriculum to include information about Juneteenth, which commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

- [Arkansas SB 519 \(2017\)](#) Requires the commissioner of education to update resources for teaching the historical contributions of African Americans. Emphasis shall be placed on the historic work of civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr.
- [Indiana SB 337 \(2017\)](#) Requires each school corporation, charter school and accredited nonpublic school to offer the study of ethnic and racial groups as a one semester elective course in its high school curriculum.
- [Nevada SB 107 \(2017\)](#) requires the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools to identify a curriculum for diversity studies in cooperation with faculties of universities researching ethnic and diversity studies as well as other qualified individuals. The standards must be written in such a manner as to allow local school districts and charter schools to modify content to reflect and support students in the community.
- [California AB 2016 \(2016\)](#) requires the Instructional Quality Commission to develop, modify or revise a model curriculum in ethnic studies. Encourages schools and districts that do not already offer ethnic studies to offer a course of study based on the model curriculum.
- [Michigan HB 4493 \(2016\)](#) requires the inclusion of instruction on genocide, including the holocaust and Armenian genocide, in social studies curriculum for grades 8-12.
- [Rhode Island SB 2396 \(2016\)](#) requires the inclusion of instruction on holocaust and genocide studies in the curriculum for all middle and high school students.
- [Nevada AB 234 \(2015\)](#) requires state standards for social studies to include multicultural education and requires new licensed teachers to complete a course in multicultural education.
- [Washington SB 5433 \(2015\)](#) requires that the state's tribal history, culture and government be taught in public schools.
- [Pennsylvania HB 1424 \(2014\)](#) adds a new section on instruction, curriculum and in-service training related to the holocaust, genocide and human rights violations.