



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7082**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall  
4 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally  
5 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;  
6 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and  
7 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary  
8 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-  
9 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not  
10 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in  
11 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast  
12 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health,  
13 physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide  
14 prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating  
15 to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe  
16 use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the  
17 dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts,  
18 including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling;  
19 mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the

20 climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section;  
21 social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics,  
22 geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide  
23 education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section  
24 10-18f; African-American studies in accordance with the provisions of  
25 section 2 of this act; computer programming instruction; and in  
26 addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world languages  
27 and vocational education. For purposes of this subsection, world  
28 languages shall include American Sign Language, provided such  
29 subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision  
30 of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of  
31 Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form  
32 of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to,  
33 dance, music, art and theatre.

34 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to  
35 take a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil  
36 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such  
37 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is  
38 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

39 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,  
40 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the  
41 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of  
42 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least  
43 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that  
44 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

45 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum  
46 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional  
47 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to  
48 this section. The State Board of Education, within available  
49 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist  
50 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)  
51 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical  
52 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American

53 [history] studies; (4) Puerto Rican history; (5) Native American history;  
54 (6) personal financial management, including, but not limited to,  
55 financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-  
56 16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of  
57 automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law, including  
58 organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal  
59 protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free market  
60 capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism  
61 in the development of the American and world economies; (9) climate  
62 change consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (10)  
63 topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or  
64 regional boards of education as part of the program of instruction  
65 offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11) instruction  
66 relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive. The  
67 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available  
68 to each local and regional board of education for the development of  
69 curriculum on climate change as described in this subsection.

70 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) For the school year  
71 commencing July 1, 2019, and each school year thereafter, each local  
72 and regional board of education shall include African-American  
73 studies as part of the curriculum for the school district, pursuant to  
74 section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by this act. In  
75 developing and implementing the African-American studies  
76 curriculum, the board may utilize existing and appropriate public or  
77 private materials, personnel and other resources, including the  
78 curriculum materials made available by the State Board of Education  
79 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as  
80 amended by this act.

81 (b) A local or regional board of education may accept gifts, grants  
82 and donations, including in-kind donations, designated for the  
83 development and implementation of the African-American studies  
84 curriculum under this section.

85 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is

86 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
87 *1, 2019*):

88 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2023, and for each  
89 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education  
90 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a  
91 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a  
92 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (1) Nine  
93 credits in the humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits  
94 in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; (3) one credit in  
95 physical education and wellness; (4) one credit in health and safety  
96 education, as described in section 10-16b, as amended by this act; (5)  
97 one credit in world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection  
98 (g) of this section; and (6) a one credit mastery-based diploma  
99 assessment. At least one credit, which may count towards any of the  
100 requirements described in subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of this  
101 subsection shall be in African-American studies.

102 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is  
103 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
104 *1, 2019*):

105 (g) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and that  
106 are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards,  
107 adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-4, shall  
108 satisfy the graduation requirements set forth in this section, except that  
109 a local or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1)  
110 toward meeting the high school graduation requirements upon the  
111 successful demonstration of mastery of the subject matter content  
112 described in this section achieved through educational experiences and  
113 opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning,  
114 including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and  
115 technical education, virtual learning, work-based learning, service  
116 learning, dual enrollment and early college, courses taken in middle  
117 school, internships and student-designed independent studies,  
118 provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such

119 state-wide subject matter content standards; (2) toward meeting a  
120 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade  
121 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds  
122 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in  
123 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (3) toward meeting the high school  
124 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of a world  
125 language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-line  
126 coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,  
127 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination  
128 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of  
129 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (4) toward meeting the  
130 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing  
131 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and  
132 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of  
133 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a  
134 public school classroom learning such subject matter; (5) toward  
135 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful  
136 completion of coursework during the school year or summer months  
137 at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher  
138 Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One  
139 three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution  
140 shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section; (6) toward  
141 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful  
142 completion of on-line coursework, provided the local or regional board  
143 of education has adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision  
144 for the granting of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall  
145 ensure, at a minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line  
146 course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional  
147 classroom setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with  
148 curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education,  
149 where appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive  
150 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required  
151 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-  
152 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program  
153 of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and

154 systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are  
155 certified in the state or another state and have received training on  
156 teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of  
157 higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for  
158 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally  
159 accredited; [or] (7) toward meeting the high school graduation  
160 requirement upon the successful completion of the academic  
161 advancement program, pursuant to section 10-5c; or (8) toward  
162 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful  
163 completion of the course in African-American studies developed  
164 pursuant to section 5 of this act.

165 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2020, the  
166 Department of Education shall develop the curriculum for a course in  
167 African-American studies. Such course shall count as one credit for  
168 purposes of the high school graduation requirements pursuant to  
169 section 10-221a of the general statutes, as amended by this act. In  
170 developing and implementing the curriculum for the course in  
171 African-American studies, the department may utilize existing and  
172 appropriate public or private materials, personnel and other resources,  
173 including the curriculum materials made available pursuant to  
174 subsection (d) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by  
175 this act.

176 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2020,  
177 the State Board of Education shall develop and adopt a model  
178 curriculum for grades kindergarten to eight, inclusive. Such model  
179 curriculum shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16b  
180 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and include African-  
181 American studies within and among various subject matter areas. The  
182 state board shall make such model curriculum available on the Internet  
183 web site of the Department of Education.

184 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school  
185 year thereafter, the Department of Education shall provide, upon  
186 request of a local or regional board of education, technical assistance

187 and training to assist in the implementation of the model curriculum  
188 for grades kindergarten to eight, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-16b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-221a(c)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-221a(g)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*