



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7083**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICAN AND  
LATINO 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 Section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the  
25 provisions of section 2 of this act; computer programming instruction;  
26 and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world  
27 languages and vocational education. For purposes of this subsection,  
28 world languages shall include American Sign Language, provided  
29 such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the  
30 supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State  
31 Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means  
32 any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be  
33 limited to, 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; (4) Puerto Rican [history] and Latino studies; (5) Native  
54 American history; (6) personal financial management, including, but  
55 not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided  
56 under section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
57 and the use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and  
58 law, including organized labor, the collective bargaining process,  
59 existing legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics  
60 of free market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor  
61 and capitalism in the development of the American and world  
62 economies; (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation  
63 Science Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the  
64 request of local or regional boards of education as part of the program  
65 of instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and  
66 (11) instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-  
67 61, inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
68 shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the  
69 development of curriculum on climate change as described in this  
70 subsection.

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

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

86 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is  
87 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
88 *1, 2019*):

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

103 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is  
104 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
105 *1, 2019*):

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

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

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

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

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

185 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school  
186 year thereafter, the Department of Education shall provide, upon

187 request of a local or regional board of education, technical assistance  
188 and training to assist in the implementation of the model curriculum  
189 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.*