
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2823

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Lovick, Dunshee, McCoy, Santos, Simpson and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a study of school district curriculum;
2 and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that in the global
5 economy of the twenty-first century, all students, regardless of their
6 own background, must be prepared to interact successfully with people
7 from a wide variety of cultures.

8 (2) The legislature also finds that results from the Washington
9 assessment of student learning show a persistent pattern of
10 underachievement by many students of color, even though it is clear
11 that these students are innately no less intelligent or capable than
12 their peers. While there are multiple causes for this pattern, one
13 cause may be the lack of a curriculum that accurately includes the
14 history, contributions, and contemporary experiences of people of
15 color. The absence of such a curriculum may lead students of color to
16 conclude that school is not relevant to their lives and that the
17 education system does not value them.

18 (3) The absence of curriculum that accurately includes diverse

1 cultures also constricts the ability of all students to succeed in the
2 culturally diverse world of the twenty-first century.

3 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that every student in
4 Washington should see his or her culture fully and accurately included
5 in the public school curriculum in every grade, and that all students
6 should learn about the cultures and histories of all of their peers in
7 the state and the world. To make progress toward achieving this goal,
8 the legislature requires additional information about the degree to
9 which school districts have such a curriculum and what barriers may
10 impede them from adopting and using such a curriculum.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The college of education at the
12 University of Washington shall conduct a review of the curriculum
13 offered by public schools in Washington. The review shall examine the
14 degree to which the curriculum accurately includes the history,
15 contributions, and contemporary experiences of people of color. The
16 review shall also identify barriers that may impede schools and school
17 districts from successfully adopting and using such a curriculum.

18 (2) The college shall submit a report to the education committees
19 of the legislature by December 1, 2007, including findings and
20 recommendations for strategies and policies that could improve the
21 public school curriculum.

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