
SENATE BILL 5134

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators McCune, Trudeau, Chapman, Lovick, and Nobles

Prefiled 01/03/25. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring public schools to commemorate the
2 contributions of Chinese Americans and Americans of Chinese descent;
3 amending RCW 43.117.130; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.230
4 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.117.130 and 2023 c 357 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) With the rise of economic opportunity in America and other
9 parts of the world in the 19th century, the Chinese diaspora is now
10 one of the largest in the world. As a result, many of those who are,
11 or whose ancestors were, part of the Chinese diaspora have varied
12 perspectives, experiences, and approaches in how they preserve their
13 identity as Chinese Americans and Americans of Chinese descent.

14 (2) January of each year will be designated as a time for people
15 of this state to commemorate the contributions of Chinese Americans
16 and Americans of Chinese descent to the history and heritage of
17 Washington state and shall be designated as Chinese American/
18 Americans of Chinese descent history month.

19 ~~((3) Public schools are encouraged to designate time in January~~
20 ~~for appropriate activities in commemoration of the lives, history,~~

1 ~~achievements, and contributions of Chinese Americans and Americans of~~
2 ~~Chinese descent.))~~

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Public schools are required to designate time for appropriate
6 activities in commemoration of the lives, history, achievements, and
7 contributions of Chinese Americans and Americans of Chinese descent
8 during January, which is designated as Chinese American/Americans of
9 Chinese descent history month under RCW 43.117.130.

10 (2)(a) Beginning September 1, 2025, when a school district board
11 of directors reviews or adopts its social studies curriculum, it
12 shall incorporate instruction about the Chinese exclusion act and
13 other relevant historical events, such as the Tacoma method.

14 (b)(i) School districts shall meet the requirements of this
15 section by using a curriculum developed and made available free of
16 charge by the Washington state historical society in collaboration
17 with a Washington nonprofit organization that advances civic harmony
18 from differing cultural backgrounds.

19 (ii) School districts may modify the curriculum in (b)(i) of this
20 subsection in order to incorporate elements that have a regionally
21 specific focus or to incorporate the curriculum into existing
22 curricular materials.

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