

FAVORABLE
House Bill 1181
Education - Curriculum Standards - Antihate and Holocaust Education
(Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

House Ways and Means Committee
February 28, 2024

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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1181, which would require the State Board of Education to develop, revise, and enhance curriculum standards on the history and contributions of historically disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups, on the Holocaust, and on anti-hate education. It also directs county boards to provide paid training to educators to develop their content knowledge on the updated standards.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Students deserve an education that is inclusive, historically accurate, and values dignity for all. Comprehensive, multicultural curricula that grapple honestly with history is essential to developing students who are aware of, appreciate, and respect the history and contributions of all people.

This legislation brings necessary attention to the contributions and histories of groups that have for too long been obscured or omitted in American History curricula. It also requires comprehensive anti-hate education and the revision of social studies frameworks to enhance standards on the origins, context, and impacts of the Holocaust. These revisions will help ensure that students understand the dangers of prejudice, discriminatory policies, and abuses of power and that history curricula reflect the experiences of groups as diverse as Maryland's student body.

We appreciate the language in this bill ensuring that updated content is incorporated into the frameworks rather than expanding the quantity of instruction required. Educators have finite instructional time in the school year, and in improving the accuracy and completeness of our curricula, we do not want to reduce the overall time available for each standard.

Finally, we support the provision of substantive, paid, and possibly credit-eligible professional development to enhance educators' content knowledge on teaching the revised standards. It is essential that students receive an accurate and complete account of history so that they can work toward a better future, and educators must be empowered with the support they need to teach that history effectively.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1181.