

**FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**  
**House Bill 1363**  
**Education - Public Schools - Asian American History Curriculum Requirement**

**House Ways and Means Committee**  
**February 28, 2024**

**Lauren Lamb**  
**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1363 with amendments. This bill would require the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a unit of instruction on Asian American history for public schools in the State and require each county board of education to implement the Asian American history curriculum content 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 history education that is inclusive, accurate, and complete, and MSEA wholeheartedly agrees with the importance of ensuring that content standards cover Asian American history. It is essential that students receive a comprehensive multicultural education that cultivates respect and appreciation for the contributions of Asian Americans throughout history, which have been too often omitted or downplayed in curricula. This legislation is especially relevant considering the sharp rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents in recent years.

In improving social studies frameworks, it is critical to ensure that updated information is incorporated into the frameworks rather than expanding the

quantity of instruction required. Educators have finite instructional time in the school year, and it is essential that in improving the accuracy and completeness of our curricular models, we do not reduce the overall time available for each standard. We support efforts to ensure that Asian American history instruction is incorporated into existing coursework through the revision, rather than expansion, of elementary and secondary curriculum content standards, and would urge amendments to that end.

MSEA advocates for a comprehensive, holistic effort to ensure that social studies curricular resources are up-to-date, rigorous, and reflective of the experiences, contributions, and history of communities as diverse as Maryland's student population. It is essential that students' history education includes comprehensive coverage of Asian American history, and that educators are engaged in every step of the implementation process.

**We urge that, with the above-referenced concerns addressed, the Committee issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 1363.**