

TO: House Committee on Ways and Means

BILL: House Bill 1323- Education- Public Schools- Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

DATE: March 5, 2025

POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board respectfully oppose HB 1323, which would require MSDE to develop content standards for units on Asian American History to be implemented by public schools by the 2026-2027 school year in at least one elementary school course, one middle school course, and a required high school history course.

We do not oppose the bill based on the merits of the proposed subject matter but on the grounds that the legislative requirement would be duplicative of current regulatory requirements and run counter to the process entrusted to the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and MSDE.

While the State Board and MSDE are supportive of the fundamental principles outlined in the requirements of the bill, the State Board and MSDE established a process for reviewing, revising, and adopting standards, frameworks, and curricular resources on January 23, 2024. Both entities are strident in ensuring that the development of standards, frameworks, and curricular resources is conducted through this process, which includes collaboration between the State Board, MSDE, local education agencies (LEAs), and community members through the convening of a Standards and Frameworks Validation Committee (SFVC).

Guided by this process, the Social Studies SFVC was initially convened on June 28, 2024, to review and propose revisions to the current Maryland Social Studies Frameworks. Changes to these established processes would be duplicative and alter the timeline in which the standards will be updated, thus impacting the associated alignment of curricular resources implemented in LEAs and requiring substantial efforts to realign them. The Social Studies Frameworks are currently open for [public comment](#). Public comment closes on March 4, 2025, at 5pm.

Further, the current Maryland Social Studies State Frameworks provide educational opportunities aligned to those proposed in this legislation in elementary, middle, and high school related to Asian American History, while the existing Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.04.08.01 provides requirements for social studies instructional programs, including those in alignment with the principles of this legislation related to meeting the instructional needs of students.

Beyond this, the changes required by this bill to the Maryland Social Studies Standards would alter the national best practices aligned inquiry statement structure by shifting to a content-specific structure. This change would require substantial revision beyond the inclusion of the content required by HB 1323 to ensure that the standards reflect an accurate representation of content and topics.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 1323**. Please contact Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D. (Executive Director of Government Affairs) akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov for any additional information.