

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2025

SENATE BILL

No. 510

Introduced by Senator Richardson

(Coauthors: Senators Smallwood-Cuevas and Weber Pierson)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Bryan, Elhawary, Gipson,
Jackson, McKinnor, Ransom, Sharp-Collins, and Wilson)

February 19, 2025

An act to amend ~~Sections 51210, 51220, and~~ *Section 51226.3* of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 510, as amended, Richardson. Pupil instruction: treatment of African Americans.

~~Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include certain areas of study, including, among others, English, mathematics, social sciences, science, and visual and performing arts, as specified.~~

Existing law ~~requires~~ *establishes* the Instructional Quality Commission, ~~Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.~~ *Existing law requires the commission, when the history-social science curriculum framework is next revised, on or after January 1, 2025, to consider providing for inclusion, in that curriculum framework, related evaluation criteria, and accompanying instructional materials, of instruction on the treatment and perspectives of Native Americans during the Spanish colonization of California and the Gold Rush Era.*

~~This bill, with respect to the adopted course of study for grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for social sciences, would additionally require instruction that provides a foundation for understanding the treatment and perspectives of African Americans regarding the harm California has done to African Americans. The bill would require the commission, when the State Board of Education *state board* next revises the history-social science curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials, on or after January 1, 2026, to consider including content on the historical, social, economic, and political contributions of African Americans during the Spanish colonization of California, the Gold Rush Era, and Antebellum, as provided. To the extent that this bill would create new duties for local educational agencies or local officials, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: ~~yes~~*no*.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 51210 of the Education Code is amended~~
2 ~~to read:~~
3 ~~51210. (a) The adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6,~~
4 ~~inclusive, shall include instruction, beginning in grade 1 and~~
5 ~~continuing through grade 6, in the following areas of study:~~
6 ~~(1) English, including knowledge of, and appreciation for,~~
7 ~~literature and the language, as well as the skills of speaking,~~
8 ~~reading, listening, spelling, handwriting, including instruction in~~
9 ~~cursive or joined italics in the appropriate grade levels, and~~
10 ~~composition.~~
11 ~~(2) Mathematics, including concepts, operational skills, and~~
12 ~~problem solving.~~
13 ~~(3) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of~~
14 ~~anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,~~
15 ~~psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the~~

1 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
2 the history, resources, development, and government of California
3 and the United States of America; the development of the American
4 economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur and labor;
5 the relations of persons to their human and natural environment;
6 eastern and western cultures and civilizations; contemporary issues;
7 the wise use of natural resources; the Spanish colonization of
8 California and the Gold Rush Era, including the treatment and
9 perspectives of Native Americans during those periods; and the
10 treatment and perspectives of African Americans regarding the
11 harm California has done to African Americans.

12 (4) Science, including the biological and physical aspects, with
13 emphasis on the processes of experimental inquiry, on the place
14 of humans in ecological systems, on the causes and effects of
15 climate change, and on the methods to mitigate and adapt to climate
16 change. Appropriate coursework including material on the causes
17 and effects of climate change and methods to mitigate and adapt
18 to climate change shall be offered to pupils as soon as possible,
19 commencing no later than the 2024-25 school year.

20 (5) Visual and performing arts, including instruction in the
21 subjects of dance, music, theater, and visual arts, aimed at the
22 development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative
23 expression.

24 (6) Health, including instruction in the principles and practices
25 of individual, family, and community health.

26 (7) Physical education, with emphasis upon the physical
27 activities for the pupils that may be conducive to health and vigor
28 of body and mind, for a total period of time of not less than 200
29 minutes each 10 schooldays, excluding recesses and the lunch
30 period, except as provided in subdivision (e) of Section 51222.

31 (8) Other studies that the governing board may prescribe.

32 (b) (1) A complaint that a school district or county
33 superintendent of schools has not complied with the instructional
34 minute requirements of paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) may be
35 filed with a school district or county superintendent of schools
36 pursuant to the Uniform Complaint Procedures set forth in Chapter
37 5.1 (commencing with Section 4600) of Division 1 of Title 5 of
38 the California Code of Regulations.

39 (2) A complainant not satisfied with the decision of a school
40 district or county superintendent of schools may appeal the decision

1 to the department pursuant to Chapter 5.1 (commencing with
2 Section 4600) of Division 1 of Title 5 of the California Code of
3 Regulations and shall receive a written appeal decision within 60
4 days of the department's receipt of the appeal.

5 (3) If a school district or county superintendent of schools finds
6 merit in a complaint, or the Superintendent finds merit in an appeal,
7 the school district or county superintendent of schools shall provide
8 a remedy to all affected pupils, parents, and guardians.

9 (e) The Legislature finds and declares that neither the original
10 provisions of this section, nor any subsequent amendments to it,
11 were intended to create a private right of action. However, nothing
12 in this subdivision shall restrict or expand the existing right of any
13 party to seek relief from noncompliance with this section pursuant
14 to a writ of mandate.

15 SEC. 2. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to
16 read:

17 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
18 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

19 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
20 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
21 listening, and speaking.

22 (b) (1) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
23 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
24 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
25 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
26 the history, resources, development, and government of California
27 and the United States of America; instruction in our American
28 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice
29 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal
30 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the
31 development of the American economic system, including the role
32 of the entrepreneur and labor; personal financial literacy; the
33 relations of persons to their human and natural environment;
34 eastern and western cultures and civilizations; human rights issues,
35 with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide,
36 slavery, and the Holocaust, and, to the extent instruction is provided
37 on the Spanish colonization of California or the Gold Rush Era,
38 the treatment and perspectives of Native Americans during those
39 periods; the treatment and perspectives of African Americans

1 regarding the harm California has done to African Americans; and
2 contemporary issues:

3 (2) ~~For purposes of this subdivision, genocide may include the~~
4 ~~Armenian Genocide. The “Armenian Genocide” means the torture,~~
5 ~~starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which included~~
6 ~~death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the Ottoman~~
7 ~~Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000 innocent people~~
8 ~~during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.~~

9 ~~(c) World language or languages, beginning not later than grade~~
10 ~~7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,~~
11 ~~reading, and writing the particular language.~~

12 ~~(d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities~~
13 ~~that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as~~
14 ~~required by Section 51222.~~

15 ~~(e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with~~
16 ~~emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific~~
17 ~~investigation, on the place of humans in ecological systems, on~~
18 ~~the causes and effects of climate change, on the methods to mitigate~~
19 ~~and adapt to climate change, and with appropriate applications of~~
20 ~~the interrelation and interdependence of the sciences. Appropriate~~
21 ~~coursework including material on the causes and effects of climate~~
22 ~~change and methods to mitigate and adapt to climate change shall~~
23 ~~be offered to pupils as soon as possible, commencing no later than~~
24 ~~the 2024–25 school year.~~

25 ~~(f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop~~
26 ~~mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into~~
27 ~~problem solving procedures.~~

28 ~~(g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,~~
29 ~~and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic~~
30 ~~appreciation and the skills of creative expression.~~

31 ~~(h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer~~
32 ~~education, family and consumer sciences education, industrial arts,~~
33 ~~general business education, or general agriculture.~~

34 ~~(i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the~~
35 ~~purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the~~
36 ~~occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the~~
37 ~~personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant~~
38 ~~to the career desires and needs of the pupils.~~

39 ~~(j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a~~
40 ~~knowledge of the Vehicle Code and other laws of this state relating~~

1 to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper acceptance of personal
2 responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation of the causes,
3 seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents, and the
4 knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe operation of motor
5 vehicles. A course in automobile driver education shall include
6 education in the safe operation of motoreyes.

7 ~~(k) Other studies that the governing board may prescribe.~~

8 ~~SEC. 3.~~

9 *SECTION 1.* Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is
10 amended to read:

11 51226.3. (a) (1) The department shall incorporate into
12 publications that provide examples of curriculum resources for
13 teacher use those materials developed by publishers of nonfiction,
14 trade books, and primary sources, or other public or private
15 organizations, that are age appropriate and consistent with the
16 subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with
17 civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the
18 Holocaust.

19 (2) The Legislature encourages the department to incorporate
20 into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources
21 for teacher use those materials developed by publishers of
22 nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other public or
23 private organizations, that are age appropriate and consistent with
24 the subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with
25 the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.

26 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,
27 rescuer, liberator, and witness oral testimony into the teaching of
28 human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including, but not
29 limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan
30 genocides.

31 (2) As used in this subdivision, “oral testimony” means the
32 firsthand accounts of significant historical events presented in a
33 format that includes, but is not limited to, in-person testimony,
34 video, or a multimedia option, such as a DVD or an online video.

35 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
36 development activities to provide teachers with content background
37 and resources to assist them in teaching about civil rights, human
38 rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian Genocide, and
39 the Holocaust.

1 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
2 development activities to provide teachers with content background
3 and resources to assist them in teaching about the Great Irish
4 Famine of 1845–50.

5 (e) The Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 shall be considered in
6 the next cycle in which the history-social science curriculum
7 framework and its accompanying instructional materials are
8 adopted.

9 (f) (1) The Legislature encourages all state and local
10 professional development activities to provide teachers with content
11 background and resources to assist them in teaching about the
12 Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the contributions of Chinese
13 Americans to the establishment of the transcontinental railroad.

14 (2) When the state board revises and adopts the curriculum
15 framework for history-social science on or after January 1, 2017,
16 the state board shall consider providing for the inclusion, in that
17 curriculum framework, evaluation criteria, and accompanying
18 instructional materials, of instruction on the Chinese Exclusion
19 Act of 1882 and the contributions of Chinese Americans to the
20 establishment of the transcontinental railroad.

21 (g) When the history-social science curriculum framework is
22 revised as required by law, the Instructional Quality Commission
23 shall consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and
24 Rwandan genocides in the recommended history-social science
25 curriculum framework.

26 (h) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide
27 adopted by the state board, pursuant to Section 51226, shall be
28 made available to schools in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as soon as
29 funding is available for this purpose. In addition, the department
30 shall make the curriculum available on its internet website.

31 (i) For purposes of this article, “Armenian Genocide” means
32 the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which
33 included death marches into the Syrian Desert, by the rulers of the
34 Ottoman Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000
35 innocent people during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.

36 (j) When the state board revises and adopts the curriculum
37 framework for history-social science on or after January 1, 2016,
38 the state board shall consider providing for the inclusion, in that
39 curriculum framework, evaluation criteria, and accompanying
40 instructional materials, of instruction on the unconstitutional

1 deportation to Mexico during the Great Depression of citizens and
2 lawful permanent residents of the United States.

3 (k) As used in subdivisions (b) and (c), “human rights” and
4 “human rights violations” include the unconstitutional deportation
5 to Mexico during the Great Depression of citizens and lawful
6 permanent residents of the United States.

7 (l) When the history-social science curriculum framework is
8 next revised on or after January 1, 2024, the Instructional Quality
9 Commission shall consider providing for inclusion, in that
10 curriculum framework, related evaluation criteria, and
11 accompanying instructional materials, of instruction on both of
12 the following:

13 (1) The historical, social, economic, and political contributions
14 of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in
15 the United States.

16 (2) Examples of racism, discrimination, and violence perpetrated
17 against Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders
18 in the United States, including, but not limited to, hate crimes
19 committed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

20 (m) When the state board next revises the history-social science
21 curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials, after
22 January 1, 2025, the Instructional Quality Commission shall
23 consider, in consultation with California tribes, including in that
24 curriculum framework or including in its evaluation criteria for
25 instructional materials, content on the treatment and perspectives
26 of Native Americans during the periods of the Spanish colonization
27 of California and the Gold Rush Era.

28 (n) When the state board adopts new instructional materials for
29 history-social science on or after January 1, 2025, the Instructional
30 Quality Commission shall consider providing for inclusion, in its
31 evaluation criteria, content on the case of *Mendez v. Westminster*
32 *School District of Orange County* (64 F. Supp. 544 (S.D. Cal.
33 1946)), *aff’d*, *Westminster School District of Orange County v.*
34 *Mendez* (161 F. 2d 774 (9th Cir. 1947)).

35 (o) When the state board next revises the history-social science
36 curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials, after
37 January 1, 2026, the Instructional Quality Commission shall
38 consider including in that curriculum framework or including in
39 its evaluation criteria for instructional materials, content on the
40 historical, social, economic, and political contributions of African

1 Americans during the Spanish colonization of California, the Gold
2 Rush Era, and Antebellum, including, but not limited to, addressing
3 African Americans' experience with discriminatory laws, barriers
4 to land ownership, and their efforts to establish economic and
5 social stability in California.

6 ~~SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that~~
7 ~~this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to~~
8 ~~local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made~~
9 ~~pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division~~
10 ~~4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.~~