

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 51226.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 510, as amended, Richardson. Pupil instruction: ~~racial disparities and historical injustices~~; *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 the Instructional Quality 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 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.

~~Existing law requires the adopted courses of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, and grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to each include, among other courses, social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the pupils. Existing law requires instruction in social sciences to include, among other things, the early history of California and a study of the role and contributions of people of all genders, Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, LGBTQ+ Americans, persons with disabilities, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic status groups, to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society.~~

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would ensure that all public school pupils receive a complete and accurate education regarding racial disparities and historical injustices, as provided.~~

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

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
16 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
17 the history, resources, development, and government of California
18 and the United States of America; the development of the American
19 economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur and labor;
20 the relations of persons to their human and natural environment;
21 eastern and western cultures and civilizations; contemporary issues;
22 the wise use of natural resources; ~~and the Spanish colonization of~~
23 California and the Gold Rush Era, including the treatment and
24 perspectives of Native Americans during those ~~periods~~ *periods*;
25 ~~and the treatment and perspectives of African Americans regarding~~
26 ~~the harm California has done to African Americans.~~

27 (4) Science, including the biological and physical aspects, with
28 emphasis on the processes of experimental inquiry, on the place
29 of humans in ecological systems, on the causes and effects of
30 climate change, and on the methods to mitigate and adapt to climate
31 change. Appropriate coursework including material on the causes
32 and effects of climate change and methods to mitigate and adapt
33 to climate change shall be offered to pupils as soon as possible,
34 commencing no later than the 2024–25 school year.

35 (5) Visual and performing arts, including instruction in the
36 subjects of dance, music, theater, and visual arts, aimed at the
37 development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative
38 expression.

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

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

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

9 (b) (1) A complaint that a school district or county
10 superintendent of schools has not complied with the instructional
11 minute requirements of paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) may be
12 filed with a school district or county superintendent of schools
13 pursuant to the Uniform Complaint Procedures set forth in Chapter
14 5.1 (commencing with Section 4600) of Division 1 of Title 5 of
15 the California Code of Regulations.

16 (2) A complainant not satisfied with the decision of a school
17 district or county superintendent of schools may appeal the decision
18 to the department pursuant to Chapter 5.1 (commencing with
19 Section 4600) of Division 1 of Title 5 of the California Code of
20 Regulations and shall receive a written appeal decision within 60
21 days of the department's receipt of the appeal.

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

26 (c) The Legislature finds and declares that neither the original
27 provisions of this section, nor any subsequent amendments to it,
28 were intended to create a private right of action. However, nothing
29 in this subdivision shall restrict or expand the existing right of any
30 party to seek relief from noncompliance with this section pursuant
31 to a writ of mandate.

32 *SEC. 2. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to*
33 *read:*

34 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
35 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

36 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
37 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
38 listening, and speaking.

39 (b) (1) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
40 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,

1 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
2 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
3 the history, resources, development, and government of California
4 and the United States of America; instruction in our American
5 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice
6 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal
7 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the
8 development of the American economic system, including the role
9 of the entrepreneur and labor; personal financial literacy; the
10 relations of persons to their human and natural environment;
11 eastern and western cultures and civilizations; human rights issues,
12 with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide,
13 slavery, and the Holocaust, and, to the extent instruction is provided
14 on the Spanish colonization of California or the Gold Rush Era,
15 the treatment and perspectives of Native Americans during those
16 periods; *the treatment and perspectives of African Americans*
17 *regarding the harm California has done to African Americans*;
18 and contemporary issues.

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

25 (c) World language or languages, beginning not later than grade
26 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,
27 reading, and writing the particular language.

28 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities
29 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as
30 required by Section 51222.

31 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with
32 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific
33 investigation, on the place of humans in ecological systems, on
34 the causes and effects of climate change, on the methods to mitigate
35 and adapt to climate change, and with appropriate applications of
36 the interrelation and interdependence of the sciences. Appropriate
37 coursework including material on the causes and effects of climate
38 change and methods to mitigate and adapt to climate change shall
39 be offered to pupils as soon as possible, commencing no later than
40 the 2024–25 school year.

1 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop
2 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into
3 problem solving procedures.

4 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,
5 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic
6 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

7 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer
8 education, family and consumer sciences education, industrial arts,
9 general business education, or general agriculture.

10 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the
11 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the
12 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the
13 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant
14 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

15 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a
16 knowledge of the Vehicle Code and other laws of this state relating
17 to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper acceptance of personal
18 responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation of the causes,
19 seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents, and the
20 knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe operation of motor
21 vehicles. A course in automobile driver education shall include
22 education in the safe operation of motorcycles.

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

24 *SEC. 3. Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended to*
25 *read:*

26 51226.3. (a) (1) The department shall incorporate into
27 publications that provide examples of curriculum resources for
28 teacher use those materials developed by publishers of nonfiction,
29 trade books, and primary sources, or other public or private
30 organizations, that are age appropriate and consistent with the
31 subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with
32 civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the
33 Holocaust.

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

1 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,
2 rescuer, liberator, and witness oral testimony into the teaching of
3 human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including, but not
4 limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan
5 genocides.

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

10 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
11 development activities to provide teachers with content background
12 and resources to assist them in teaching about civil rights, human
13 rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian Genocide, and
14 the Holocaust.

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

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

23 (f) (1) The Legislature encourages all state and local
24 professional development activities to provide teachers with content
25 background and resources to assist them in teaching about the
26 Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the contributions of Chinese
27 Americans to the establishment of the transcontinental railroad.

28 (2) When the state board revises and adopts the curriculum
29 framework for history-social science on or after January 1, 2017,
30 the state board shall consider providing for the inclusion, in that
31 curriculum framework, evaluation criteria, and accompanying
32 instructional materials, of instruction on the Chinese Exclusion
33 Act of 1882 and the contributions of Chinese Americans to the
34 establishment of the transcontinental railroad.

35 (g) When the history-social science curriculum framework is
36 revised as required by law, the Instructional Quality Commission
37 shall consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and
38 Rwandan genocides in the recommended history-social science
39 curriculum framework.

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

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

11 (j) When the state board revises and adopts the curriculum
12 framework for history-social science on or after January 1, 2016,
13 the state board shall consider providing for the inclusion, in that
14 curriculum framework, evaluation criteria, and accompanying
15 instructional materials, of instruction on the unconstitutional
16 deportation to Mexico during the Great Depression of citizens and
17 lawful permanent residents of the United States.

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

22 (l) When the history-social science curriculum framework is
23 next revised on or after January 1, 2024, the Instructional Quality
24 Commission shall consider providing for inclusion, in that
25 curriculum framework, related evaluation criteria, and
26 accompanying instructional materials, of instruction on both of
27 the following:

28 (1) The historical, social, economic, and political contributions
29 of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in
30 the United States.

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

35 (m) When the state board next revises the history-social science
36 curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials, after
37 January 1, 2025, the Instructional Quality Commission shall
38 consider, in consultation with California tribes, including in that
39 curriculum framework or including in its evaluation criteria for
40 instructional materials, content on the treatment and perspectives

1 of Native Americans during the periods of the Spanish colonization
2 of California and the Gold Rush Era.

3 (n) When the state board adopts new instructional materials for
4 history-social science on or after January 1, 2025, the Instructional
5 Quality Commission shall consider providing for inclusion, in its
6 evaluation criteria, content on the case of *Mendez v. Westminster*
7 School District of Orange County (64 F. Supp. 544 (S.D. Cal.
8 1946)), *aff'd*, *Westminster School District of Orange County v.*
9 *Mendez* (161 F. 2d 774 (9th Cir. 1947)).

10 (o) *When the state board next revises the history-social science*
11 *curriculum framework or adopts new instructional materials, after*
12 *January 1, 2026, the Instructional Quality Commission shall*
13 *consider including in that curriculum framework or including in*
14 *its evaluation criteria for instructional materials, content on the*
15 *historical, social, economic, and political contributions of African*
16 *Americans during the Spanish colonization of California, the Gold*
17 *Rush Era, and Antebellum, including, but not limited to, addressing*
18 *African Americans' experience with discriminatory laws, barriers*
19 *to land ownership, and their efforts to establish economic and*
20 *social stability in California.*

21 SEC. 4. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that*
22 *this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to*
23 *local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made*
24 *pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division*
25 *4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

26 SECTION 1. ~~It is the intent of the Legislature to enact future~~
27 ~~legislation that would ensure that all public school pupils receive~~
28 ~~a complete and accurate education regarding racial disparities and~~
29 ~~historical injustices by doing all of the following:~~

30 ~~(a) Incorporating comprehensive racial history education that~~
31 ~~covers the impact of segregation, slavery, and systemic~~
32 ~~discrimination that have shaped California and the nation.~~

33 ~~(b) Providing resources and support for teachers to effectively~~
34 ~~teach racial disparities, including professional development,~~
35 ~~approved textbooks, and curriculum guidelines.~~

36 ~~(c) Preparing pupils in understanding and addressing systemic~~
37 ~~inequities to foster a more informed and inclusive society.~~