

HOUSE No. 561

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David M. Rogers

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish an integrated cultural studies curriculum in our schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 561

By Representative Rogers of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 561) of David M. Rogers and Frank A. Moran for legislation to establish an integrated cultural studies curriculum in schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to establish an integrated cultural studies curriculum in our schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new section:-

3 (a) Definitions.

4 Section XX. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall be defined as:

5 “Advisory Council”, means the Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council.

6 “Commissioner”, means the commissioner of the department of elementary and
7 secondary education.

8 “Department”, means the department of elementary and secondary education.

9 “Integrated Cultural Studies”, means the interdisciplinary study of race and ethnicity, as
10 understood through the perspectives of major underrepresented racial groups in the United States

11 such as African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Indigenous Americans, and Latin-Americans.
12 Integrated Cultural Studies shall examine the historical and contemporary role of race and racism
13 in the United States at the local, state, and national level. The curriculum shall reference social
14 commentary, scholarly sources, art and literature of African-Americans, Asian-Americans,
15 Indigenous Americans, and Latin-Americans. This curriculum shall promote civility and
16 collaboration between students of different ethnicities and backgrounds. The curriculum shall be
17 inclusive, and shall offer diverse voices and narratives to broaden student's understanding of race
18 and culture.

19 (b) Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council.

20 The commissioner of the department shall establish an Integrated Cultural Studies
21 Advisory Council for the purpose of developing a model curriculum and framework for grades
22 kindergarten through twelve in Integrated Cultural Studies. The Integrated Cultural Studies
23 Advisory Council shall make recommendations to the department regarding the implementation
24 of Integrated Cultural Studies in public schools. The Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory
25 Council shall include but not be limited to: six teachers of color to be appointed, three teachers of
26 color from Gateway Cities across Massachusetts; the president of the Boston Branch of the
27 NAACP or designee, the executive director of the Union of Minority Neighborhoods or
28 designee, the chair of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus or designee, the
29 executive director of Massachusetts' Commission on Indian Affairs or designee, the executive
30 director of Sociedad Latina or designee, the executive director of the Hyde Square Task Force or
31 designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Asian American Commission or designee,
32 one commissioner of the Massachusetts Asian American Commission or designee; and, the
33 Integrated Cultural Studies Liaison established in subsection (c).

34 The Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council shall elect the council's Chair by a
35 majority vote among its members at the advisory council's first official meeting of business. The
36 Chair shall preside over the advisory council's meetings for the duration of the advisory
37 council's existence or until a new chair is elected by its members. The Integrated Cultural
38 Studies Advisory Council shall meet at times and places to be determined by the Chair, in
39 consultation with the members, and shall establish working groups, meetings, forums or other
40 activity deemed necessary to carry out its business. The Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory
41 Council shall remain in existence until their final report is published or at the Chair's discretion.

42 (c) Integrated Cultural Studies Liaison.

43 The department shall hire, appoint and support an Integrated Cultural Studies Liaison that
44 shall be a member of the Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council and represent the
45 department in advisory council meetings. The Integrated Cultural Studies Liaison shall oversee
46 all implementation of Integrated Cultural Studies in school districts and shall make
47 recommendations to school districts on ways to improve their curriculum.

48 (d) (1) Initial Survey.

49 The Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council shall conduct an initial survey of all
50 public school district's existing curriculum to assess the prevalence of cultural studies curriculum
51 in Massachusetts. The questions on the initial survey shall be created by the advisory council
52 members. The survey shall be administered by each school district and shall be reported back to
53 the Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council within 45 days of the initial inquiry. The initial
54 survey and the initial survey's results shall be included in the annual report for the first year and
55 in the final report and shall be published on the department's website.

56 (2) Annual Reports.

57 The Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council shall conduct annual surveys based on
58 the questions included in the initial survey. These questions and results shall be included in the
59 advisory council's annual report which shall be filed with the department. These annual reports
60 shall include the advisory council's work and findings for the year, the advisory council's impact
61 on implementing the Integrated Cultural Studies curriculum and framework and analysis from
62 the school district's surveys. The department shall publish the annual reports on the department's
63 website.

64 (3) Final Report.

65 The advisory council shall recommend a comprehensive Integrated Cultural Studies
66 curriculum that would expound upon all applicable core subjects, including but not limited to
67 History and Social Science and English Language Arts and Literacy frameworks as they relate to
68 ethnic literature, content, language, events, and figures. The advisory council's report shall also
69 include recommendations on improvements to all applicable core subjects, included but not
70 limited to History and Social Science and English Language Arts and Literacy frameworks to
71 include Integrated Cultural Studies. The Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council shall
72 recommend curriculum that is appropriate for students regardless of gender, race, disability
73 status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The advisory council's recommendations shall
74 include, but not be limited to: (i) teaching disciplinary or interdisciplinary theories necessary for
75 students to comprehend, articulate, and critically analyze diverse social, cultural, and political
76 perspectives; (ii) provide educational material that shall demonstrate critical awareness of how
77 individual perspectives and biases influence ways of seeing the world; (iii) provide students with

78 knowledge of structural and cultural forces that shape or have shaped discrimination through
79 media based on factors such as race, ethnicity, language, religion, class, ability, nationality,
80 sexuality, or gender; (iv) develop relationships amongst students and teachers that shall promote
81 the practice of listening to and communicating respectfully with others of diverse perspectives;
82 and (v) explore and research questions that reflect multiple perspectives to develop a complex
83 understanding of the world.

84 The department shall use the advisory council's recommendations to modify the
85 curriculum's framework as needed to include a more diverse array of narratives and broaden
86 students' exposure to ways of thinking and understanding diverse cultural and racial perspectives.

87 (e) Department Duties.

88 (1) Pursuant to section 1E of chapter 69, the board of elementary and secondary
89 education shall direct the commissioner to update all applicable core subjects, included but not
90 limited to History and Social Science and English Language Arts and Literacy frameworks to
91 include provisions, consistent with this section, relative to Integrated Cultural Studies, as
92 recommended by the advisory council, upon the effective date of this act and periodically
93 thereafter.

94 (2) The department shall require each school district to implement curriculum
95 recommended by the advisory council established in subsection (d). The department shall make
96 resources available to school districts to assist in the selection of materials and curriculum for
97 Integrated Cultural Studies.

98 (3) The department shall determine minimum education requirements and training
99 qualifications for faculty teaching all applicable core subjects, included but not limited to History

100 and Social Science and English Language Arts and Literacy, for the purpose of teaching
101 Integrated Cultural Studies. The department shall provide professional development support for
102 teachers to adequately instruct Integrated Cultural Studies curriculum and shall create guidelines
103 for a professional development program, framework for curriculum and guidance documents for
104 cities and towns to implement Integrated Cultural Studies programming across all grades.

105 (4) The Integrated Cultural Studies Advisory Council and the Integrated Cultural Studies
106 Liaison shall be appointed by the commissioner no later than 90 days after the effective date of
107 this act.

108 (5) The department shall promulgate rules to implement, administer, and ensure
109 compliance with the provisions of this section.

110 (f) School District Requirements.

111 Each public school district shall update their curriculum to include the Integrated Cultural
112 Studies recommendations offered by the advisory council. School districts shall use the
113 department's guidance documents to integrate comprehensive Integrated Cultural Studies
114 education into all applicable core subjects, including but not limited to History and Social
115 Science and English Language Arts and Literacy frameworks, in grades K-12. School districts
116 shall develop a plan to implement Integrated Cultural Studies into their curriculum no later than
117 one year after the advisory council publishes its final report.

118 Beginning the first academic year following the effective date of this act, each public
119 school district shall file an annual report with the department regarding curriculum frameworks
120 related to Integrated Cultural Studies education. Said report shall include, but not be limited to,
121 the following data for each public school district, by grade level: (1) the course name and a

122 description of any Integrated Cultural Studies education curriculum offered; (2) the approximate
123 number of hours spent on Integrated Cultural Studies education; and (3) the number of students
124 receiving Integrated Cultural Studies education.

125 (g) Review of School District's Plans.

126 The department shall work with the Integrated Cultural Studies Liaison and the advisory
127 council members to review district plans and make recommendations to improve district plans
128 pertaining to Integrated Cultural Studies curriculum.

129 (h) Online Resources.

130 The department shall create an online open educational resources portal to support
131 Integrated Cultural Studies curriculum which must be made accessible for students, teachers and
132 parents interested in learning more about Integrated Cultural Studies.

133 (i) Effective Date.

134 This act shall take effect for the academic year immediately following this bill's passage.