

SENATE No. 288

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam Gomez

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 promote racially inclusive curriculum in schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Edward J. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	<i>5/4/2023</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/10/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/18/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>5/18/2023</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/8/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>6/27/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>6/27/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>7/11/2023</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>10/13/2023</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>11/30/2023</i>
<i>Pavel Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>3/14/2024</i>

SENATE No. 288

By Mr. Gomez, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 288) of Adam Gomez, Tram T. Nguyen, Steven Ultrino, Jack Patrick Lewis and others for legislation to promote racially inclusive curriculum in schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to promote racially inclusive curriculum in 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 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 2XXXXX the following new section:-

3 Section 2XXXXX. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the
4 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Racially Inclusive Curriculum Trust Fund.
5 The fund shall be administered by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The
6 fund shall be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the
7 general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) interest earned on such
8 revenues; and (iii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations to
9 further racially inclusive curriculum development in education and professional development.
10 Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money
11 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

12 (b) Amounts credited to the fund may be expended, without further appropriation, by the
13 commissioner for the following purposes: (i) to assist with the implementation of section 1R of
14 chapter 69, (ii) for the development of racially inclusive curriculum frameworks within multiple
15 disciplines and within the history and social science learning standards; (iii) for the development
16 of materials and resources to enable school districts to implement a racially inclusive curriculum
17 in their schools, (iv) for professional development training, (v) for collaboration and sharing of
18 best practices among school districts, (vi) for collaboration with institutions of higher education
19 and other stakeholder organizations; and (vii) for issuing grants under the grant program
20 established in subsection (c) below.

21 (c) The commissioner may expend funds from the trust fund for a Racially Inclusive
22 Curriculum in Education grant program. The grant program shall be developed and administered
23 by the commissioner of education for all public schools and school districts to promote a racially
24 inclusive curriculum within and across school districts. All grant applications shall include: (i) a
25 statement of the prospective curriculum or program and the expected impact; (ii) a preliminary
26 estimate of the cost; (iii) sustainability plan of execution of curriculum or program; and (iv) a
27 mechanism for determining how the proposal may be effectively replicated in other school
28 districts. The commissioner of education shall, from time to time, review and make
29 recommendations on the improvement of the design, oversight or implementation of the grant
30 program.

31 (d) The commissioner may facilitate the granting of funds and other resources to public
32 schools and school districts, state colleges and universities, and community groups. The
33 commissioner will ensure that every public school and school district has the opportunity to
34 apply for grants. Programs eligible for these grants shall be used for the following purposes: (i)

35 professional development training; (ii) for the review of current curricula and standards related to
36 racially inclusive teaching; (iii) for the development of educational materials; (iv) for
37 collaboration with institutions of higher education and other stakeholder organizations; and (v)
38 for collaboration and sharing of model curricula, resources, and best practices with other districts
39 and programs in order to support replication and dissemination of effective practices generated
40 through the grant program.

41 (e) In expending amounts credited to the fund, the commissioner may prioritize: (i)
42 underserved communities across the commonwealth, including those public schools or school
43 districts with high concentrations of economically-disadvantaged students; (ii) communities that
44 have experienced an incident motivated by racial, ethnic or religious bias; and (iii) schools
45 implementing a racially inclusive curriculum and education models for the first time.

46 (f) Amounts received from private sources shall be approved by the commissioner of
47 elementary and secondary education and subject to review before being deposited in the fund to
48 ensure that pledged funds are not accompanied by conditions, explicit or implicit, that would
49 improperly shape or otherwise hinder the development and implementation of racially inclusive
50 curriculum and instruction, or that would be detrimental to the neutral and rigorous teaching of
51 racially inclusive teaching practices or unduly influence the direction of policies related to
52 racially inclusive teaching. The review shall be made publicly available on the department's
53 website.

54 (g) Public schools and school districts awarded funds pursuant to this section shall work
55 with the commissioner of education and the commission to analyze the effectiveness of their
56 initiatives in accordance with assessment measures established by the commission.

57 (h) Annually, not later than December 1, the commissioner shall report to the clerks of
58 the house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on education and the house and
59 senate committees on ways and means on the fund's activity. The report shall include, but not be
60 limited to: (i) the source and amount of funds received; (ii) the amounts distributed and the
61 purpose of expenditures from the fund, including but not limited to, funds expended to assist
62 school districts in meeting the requirements in this section; (iii) any grants provided to
63 institutions of higher education and other stakeholder organizations; and (iv) anticipated revenue
64 and expenditure projections for the next year.

65 SECTION 2. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
66 section 1T the following new section:

67 Section 1U. (a) In all public schools, instruction shall be inclusive of all racial and ethnic
68 groups and shall require the teaching of accurate histories, writings, and contributions of racial
69 and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented or marginalized, including but not
70 limited to Indigenous People; African Americans and the Black and African Diaspora; Asian
71 Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and Asian Diaspora; and Latino/a/x and people with
72 Latin American heritage.

73 (i) Within academic standards across multiple disciplines required in section 1D of
74 chapter 69, instruction in all grade levels shall include, but not be limited to: (1) studying
75 literature, books and writings by authors from underrepresented groups, as well as art, music,
76 film and other works from these groups, that will provide balanced narratives with multiple
77 perspectives and offer insight into their experiences and cultural identities, (2) highlighting
78 people from underrepresented groups who have made notable positive contributions in math,

79 science, humanities, the arts and other disciplines, and the impact these contributions have had
80 on society, and (3) learning about and fostering understanding of the ethnic and cultural
81 identities, heritage, and customs of underrepresented groups and celebrating their contributions
82 to a multicultural society.

83 (ii) In the history and social studies academic standards required in section 1D of chapter
84 69, instruction across grade levels shall aim to provide students an understanding of the unique
85 and shared experiences of each racial group, including underrepresented and marginalized
86 groups of people who may identify as having Indigenous, African, Asian, Latin, and Hispanic
87 heritage in the United States. Instruction shall include, but not be limited to, analyzing and
88 discussing: (1) the history of slavery and segregation and their impact on today's society; (2) the
89 impact of colonial settlement, land appropriation, western expansion, and creation of tribal
90 reservations; (3) the impact of racial inequities and discriminatory and exclusionary policies and
91 practices; (4) racial violence towards marginalized groups; (5) an understanding of stereotypes
92 and the impact on conscious and unconscious bias; (6) the impact of U.S. immigration history,
93 quotas, restrictions, and other policies; (7) other historical policies, practices and experiences and
94 how they relate to current issues that are affecting racial and ethnic groups in contemporary
95 society; (8) the impact of model minority myths; (9) the role that race plays in community
96 diversity, geographic and economic mobility, and political and socio-economic status; (10)
97 exploring trends in voter registration and civic participation relative to disenfranchised voter
98 populations; and (11) pursuing opportunities to identify and debate issues relative to power and
99 access, economic status, and democracy.

100 (b) A school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school or
101 collaborative school shall incorporate standards for inclusive teaching of the history, writings,

102 and contributions of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups established pursuant to section 1R
103 and subsection (a) into existing curriculum including, but not limited to, language arts, history
104 and social science, mathematics, performing and visual arts, science and technology, and world
105 language.

106 (c) All lessons and teaching related to the curriculum must be appropriate for use with
107 students of all races, religions, nationalities, genders, abilities, neurological profiles, sexual
108 orientations, and ethnic and cultural backgrounds, as well as English language learners.

109 (d) In developing the framework standards pursuant to section 1R subsection (a), the
110 department of elementary and secondary education shall seek input and feedback from
111 community members from traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, as well as
112 experts in the field of racial, ethnic, and/or cultural studies or related disciplines. Any proposed
113 changes to the standards shall be publicly available with opportunities for public feedback and
114 said input shall be publicly available and considered in the development of standards.

115 (e) The department shall provide professional development opportunities for educators on
116 the framework standards established pursuant to section 1R and subsection (a), and create tools
117 aligned with the framework to support districts in the implementation process. Subject to
118 funding, the department will facilitate the sharing of model curricula and resources from experts,
119 educators, organizations, and other school districts with implementation experience. Additional
120 support and outreach from the department may include statewide and regional trainings,
121 meetings or conferences, including opportunities for districts and other stakeholders to assess
122 and share evidence-based best practices in support of racially and culturally inclusive education
123 and provide feedback and recommendations to the department.

124 (f) Every three years the department shall hold a public review and issue a report on the
125 implementation of the racially inclusive curriculum standards to ensure that instructional
126 programs that include the histories, writings and contributions of underrepresented racial and
127 ethnic groups are being offered in the commonwealth to students in kindergarten to grade 12.
128 The general court may be petitioned to direct the commissioner of education to, subject to
129 appropriation, convene a working group consisting of educators experienced in teaching
130 curriculum related to racially and culturally inclusive education, experts in the field of racial,
131 ethnic, or cultural studies or related disciplines, and individuals or organizations in the
132 community from traditionally underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. The review shall further
133 include a report on best practices and recommended improvements to the standards. Such a
134 report shall be submitted to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the
135 chairs of the joint committee on education.