

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**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>1/16/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 561 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.