

SENATE, No. 2385

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Durr

SYNOPSIS

Removes diversity and inclusion instruction requirements for students in grades kindergarten through eight.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/9/2022)

1 **AN ACT** concerning diversity and inclusion instruction in school
2 districts and amending P.L.2021, c.32.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.32 (C.18A:35-4.36a) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each school
10 district shall incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in an
11 appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades
12 **【kindergarten】** 9 through 12 as part of the district's implementation
13 of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

14 b. The instruction shall:

15 (1) highlight and promote diversity, including economic
16 diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection
17 with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities,
18 and religious tolerance;

19 (2) examine the impact that **【unconscious bias and】** economic
20 disparities have at both an individual level and on society as a
21 whole; and

22 (3) encourage safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for
23 all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender
24 identities, mental and physical disabilities, and religious beliefs.

25 c. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
26 districts with sample learning activities and resources designed to
27 promote diversity and inclusion.

28 (cf: P.L.2021, c.32)

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill removes the requirement that school districts provide
36 instruction on diversity and inclusion in the curriculum of students
37 in grades kindergarten through eight as part of the implementation
38 of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. This bill also
39 removes the requirement that the instruction on diversity and
40 inclusion includes an examination of the impact that unconscious
41 bias has at both an individual level and on society as a whole.

42 Current law requires that school districts provide instruction on
43 diversity and inclusion in the curriculum of students in grades
44 kindergarten through 12. Additionally, current law requires that
45 school districts incorporate unconscious bias in the instruction on
46 diversity and inclusion.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.