

**City of Providence**

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 177*

**EFFECTIVE April 13, 2025**

WHEREAS, Rhode Island, as a “Lively Experiment”, has been and is home to communities of every description; and

WHEREAS, For centuries, Providence has been the epicenter of vibrant communities that have and have had fraught histories amid a deeply racialized and often violent society; and

WHEREAS, H-5836, if enacted, will require all Rhode Island students to take a year-long ethnic studies course as a graduation requirement class with a curriculum developed collaboratively with local organizations and featuring a project governed by state history and social studies standards; and

WHEREAS, An expansive understanding of American history and the place of all Americans in it is necessary to grasp the varying and fraught history that conditions the present, including that of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The development of understandings of power, justice, oppression, and institutions is necessary for the critical thought a full comprehension of and contention with future events requires; and

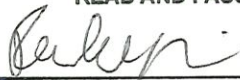

WHEREAS, The nurturing of a thoughtful, reasoning populace aware of its history will serve to strengthen its senses of itself, the American endeavor, and what democracy requires of every American.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council strongly supports the passage of H-5836 and urges that the General Assembly and the Governor of the State of Rhode Island enact this crucial legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Daniel J. McKee, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Dominick Ruggiero, Representative David Morales, and the remaining members of the Providence delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 03 2025  
READ AND PASSED

  
RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature

  
Tina L. Mastroianni  
City Clerk

2025 -- H 5836

LC002004

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Biah, Furtado, Stewart, Handy, Potter,  
Caldwell, Batista, DeSimone, and McGaw

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum [See Title 16  
2 Chapter 97 — the Rhode Island Board of Education Act]" is hereby amended by adding thereto the  
3 following section:

4 **16-22-39. Ethnic studies course.**

5 (a) Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, every high school shall be required to offer a  
6 yearlong "ethnic studies" course studying American history and the experiences of racialized  
7 communities in Rhode Island and the United States. This course's coverage shall specifically  
8 include:

9 (1) Native American and Indigenous history, Black and African American history, Asian  
10 American and Pacific Islander history, the Armenian Genocide, Arab American history, and Latin  
11 American history;

12 (2) Fostering critical thinking skills, and a deeper analysis of structures of power and race;  
13 and

14 (3) Improved educational outcomes.

15 (b) The ethnic studies course shall be a social studies 'core credit' and a high school  
16 graduation requirement starting with graduating classes of 2030.

17 (c) The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall make available to all  
18 school districts instructional materials that may be used as guidelines for development of a unit of  
19 instruction under this section.

1           (d) Each ethnic studies course shall require a student-led project; provided, however, that  
2 each such project shall be consistent with the history and social studies standards and frameworks  
3 promulgated by the Rhode Island board of education. Civics projects may be individual, small  
4 group or class wide, and designed to promote a student's ability to: reason, make logical arguments  
5 and support claims using valid evidence.

6           (e) Each school district shall be encouraged to work with grassroots organizations and local  
7 institutions in developing community-based ethnic studies teacher training and curriculum.

8           (f) The department of elementary and secondary education (the "department") shall  
9 coordinate with school districts to build and expand diverse educator pipelines to support with the  
10 delivery of ethnic studies

11           (g)(1) Curriculum development. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, there shall be a  
12 student-led ethnic studies leadership council to oversee the implementation of the requirements of  
13 this section and supporting the development and instruction of curriculum, along with methods for  
14 course evaluation.

15           (2) The council shall be comprised of one student representative and teacher liaison from  
16 each school district selected by the district superintendent and a representative from five (5)  
17 different community organizations that identify as being "youth-led" per the department. The  
18 department shall be responsible for convening the leadership council with the first meeting to take  
19 place by October 2025.

20           (3) After implementation, the leadership council shall continue as a permanent body to  
21 evaluate and update ethnic studies.

22           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM

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1           This act would require every high school to offer a yearlong “ethnic studies” course  
2 studying Rhode Island and American history and the experiences of racialized communities in  
3 Rhode Island and the United States. This act would also direct the establishment of an ethnic studies  
4 leadership council to oversee implementation of the requirements of this section.

5           This act would take effect on July 1, 2025.

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