

## CHAPTER 2023-103

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 551

An act relating to required African-American instruction; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring each school district to certify and provide certain evidence to the Department of Education regarding certain instruction; authorizing the department to seek input from and contract with certain educational organizations for specified purposes; requiring each school district to submit an implementation plan to the Commissioner of Education and post the plan on its website; providing requirements for the plan; requiring the commissioner or the department to provide certain notification; providing a timeframe within which a school district must submit revisions to its plan to the department; authorizing the State Board of Education to take certain actions under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (6), (7), and (8) are added to that section, to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

(h) The history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the history and contributions of Americans of the African diaspora to society. Students shall develop an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping on individual freedoms, and examine what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purpose of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions. Instruction shall include the roles and contributions of individuals from all walks of life and their endeavors to learn and thrive throughout history as artists, scientists, educators, businesspeople, influential thinkers, members of the faith community, and political and governmental leaders and the courageous steps they took to fulfill the promise of democracy and unite the nation. Instructional materials shall include the vital contributions of African Americans to build and strengthen American society and celebrate the inspirational stories of African Americans who prospered, even in the most

difficult circumstances. Instructional personnel may facilitate discussions and use curricula to address, in an age-appropriate manner, how the individual freedoms of persons have been infringed by slavery, racial oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination, as well as topics relating to the enactment and enforcement of laws resulting in racial oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination and how recognition of these freedoms has overturned these unjust laws. However, classroom instruction and curriculum may not be used to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view inconsistent with the principles enumerated in subsection (3) or the state academic standards. Each school district must annually certify and provide evidence to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that the requirements of this paragraph are met. The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input from the Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force or from any state or nationally recognized African-American educational organizations. The department may contract with any state or nationally recognized African-American educational organizations to develop training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.

The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (t).

(6) Each school district must submit an implementation plan to the commissioner and post the plan on the school district's website. The implementation plan must include all of the following:

(a) The methods in which instruction will be delivered for each grade level.

(b) The professional qualifications of the instructional personnel.

(c) A description of the instructional materials.

(7) The commissioner or the department must notify a school district if its implementation plan required under subsection (6), or a school district's reported instruction, do not meet the requirements of subsection (2) or established rules. The school district has a minimum of 45 days after receipt of such notice to submit revisions to its implementation plan to the department.

(8) The State Board of Education may initiate any of the actions under s. 1008.32(4) if a school district fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (2) or established rules.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor May 17, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 17, 2023.