

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 27-20.8 and by changing Section 27-21 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.8 new)

7 Sec. 27-20.8. Asian American history study.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, every public  
9 elementary school and high school shall include in its  
10 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian  
11 American history, including the history of Asian Americans in  
12 Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of  
13 Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th  
14 century onward. These events shall include the contributions  
15 made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts,  
16 humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of  
17 Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social,  
18 and political development of the United States. The studying  
19 of this material shall constitute an affirmation by students  
20 of their commitment to respect the dignity of all races and  
21 peoples and to forever eschew every form of discrimination in  
22 their lives and careers.

23 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and

1 make available to all school boards instructional materials,  
2 including those established by the Public Broadcasting  
3 Service, that may be used as guidelines for development of a  
4 unit of instruction under this Section. However, each school  
5 board shall itself determine the minimum amount of  
6 instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction  
7 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

8 (c) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a  
9 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular  
10 requirements during his or her annual compliance visit.

11 (d) A school may meet the requirements of this Section  
12 through an online program or course.

13 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

14 Sec. 27-21. History of United States. History of the  
15 United States shall be taught in all public schools and in all  
16 other educational institutions in this State supported or  
17 maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching  
18 of history shall have as one of its objectives the imparting to  
19 pupils of a comprehensive idea of our democratic form of  
20 government and the principles for which our government stands  
21 as regards other nations, including the studying of the place  
22 of our government in world-wide movements and the leaders  
23 thereof, with particular stress upon the basic principles and  
24 ideals of our representative form of government. The teaching  
25 of history shall include a study of the role and contributions

1 of African Americans and other ethnic groups, including, but  
2 not restricted to, Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian,  
3 Irish, Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak,  
4 French, Scots, Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the  
5 history of this country and this State. To reinforce the study  
6 of the role and contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum  
7 shall include the study of the events related to the forceful  
8 removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S.  
9 citizens during the Great Depression. Beginning with the  
10 2022-2023 school year, the teaching of history shall also  
11 include the study of the wrongful incarceration of Japanese  
12 Americans during World War II pursuant to United States  
13 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's signed Executive Order  
14 9066, the heroic service of the 100th Infantry Battalion and  
15 the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army  
16 during World War II, the subsequent legal challenges by  
17 Japanese Americans to Executive Order 9066, the resettlement  
18 of Japanese Americans in Illinois following incarceration, and  
19 the formal apology and redress for the incarceration issued by  
20 the United States government in 1988. In public schools only,  
21 the teaching of history shall include a study of the roles and  
22 contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender  
23 people in the history of this country and this State. The  
24 teaching of history also shall include a study of the role of  
25 labor unions and their interaction with government in  
26 achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise system.

1 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the teaching of  
2 history must also include instruction on the history of  
3 Illinois. No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade  
4 of any public school unless he or she has received such  
5 instruction in the history of the United States and gives  
6 evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which  
7 may be administered remotely.

8 (Source: P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20; 101-341, eff. 1-1-20;  
9 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)