

1 

2 Chairman Phil Mendelson

3 

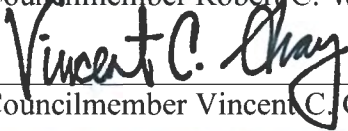
4 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

5 

6 Councilmember Mary Cheh

7 

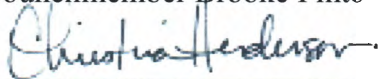
8 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

9 

10 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

11 

12 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

13 

14 Councilmember Christina Henderson

15 

16 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

17 

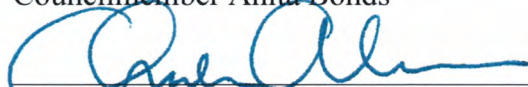
18 Councilmember Elissa Silverman

19 

20 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

21 

22 Councilmember Anita Bonds

23 

24 Councilmember Charles Allen

25 

26 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

27 A BILL

28 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

29
30 To amend the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000 to require the Office of the State
31 Superintendent of Education to develop an African-American history and cultural studies
32 curriculum for high school students enrolled in a District of Columbia Public or Charter
33 School, and to allow such a course to be counted as part of the promotion requirements of
34 graduation.

35
36 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
37 act may be cited as the “African American and Cultural Studies Inclusion Amendment Act of
38 2021”.

39 Sec. 2. Section 2 of the State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective
40 October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2602), is amended by adding a
41 new subsection (d) to read as follows:

42 “(d)(1)(A) Beginning in the school year commencing in August 2023, and each year
43 thereafter, OSSE shall include African-American history as part of the curriculum for students
44 enrolled in a District of Columbia Public or Charter School between the 9th and 12th grade.

45 “(B) OSSE, in consultation with the State Board of Education and the
46 Office of African American Affairs, shall develop the materials for an African-American history
47 course and may utilize existing and appropriate public or private materials, personnel, and other
48 resources, including persons and organizations that have subject matter and teaching expertise in
49 African-American history or cultural studies and have developed and implemented a curriculum
50 relevant to either African-American history or cultural studies in the past.

51 “(C) No later than January 1, 2022, OSSE, after its review, shall approve
52 the African-American history or cultural study course if OSSE determines that the content of the
53 course is rigorous, aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education,
54 and in accordance with subject-matter-content standards.

55 “(D) No later than February 1, 2022, OSSE shall submit a description of
56 the African-American course, approved pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, that
57 includes the scope and sequence and course objectives and a report on the development and
58 review of the course to both the Mayor and Council.

59 “(E) No later than August 2022, the approved course shall offered and
60 counted as one of the 4.0 Carnegie Units required for promotion to graduation pursuant to
61 section 2203.3(b) of Title 5 District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (5 DCMR 2203.3(b)).

62 “(2) For the purposes of this subsection, the term:

63 “(A) “African-American Studies” means a disciplinary, inter and multi-
64 disciplinary field that analyzes and treats the past and present culture, achievements,

65 characteristics, and issues of people of African descent in the United States of America (“United
66 States”) with a particular focus on the history of the African-American experience and
67 contributions to the United States in the arts, humanities, and sciences to the economic, cultural,
68 and political development of the United States and includes, at a minimum, discussions of the
69 African origins of humanity and civilization, the modern era enslavement of Africans, and the
70 socio-economic struggle that African-Americans experienced collectively in striving to achieve
71 fair and equal treatment under the laws of the United States.

72 “(B) “Cultural studies” means the interdisciplinary study of culture, race,
73 gender, and ethnicity, as understood through the perspectives of historically underrepresented
74 groups in the United States and centers those perspectives within the context of United States
75 history.”.

76 Sec. Fiscal impact statement.

77 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
78 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
79 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

80 Sec. 5. Effective date.

81 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
82 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
83 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
84 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1), and publication in the District of
85 Columbia Register.