



OEA TALKING POINTS: Multicultural Social Studies Curriculum



House Bill 171 - OEA Supports

Status: Before the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

House Bill 171, sponsored by Representative Mary Lightbody (D-Westerville), requires the State Board of Education to update the model curriculum for social studies in grades kindergarten to twelve to include age- and grade appropriate instruction in the migration journeys, experiences, and societal contributions of a range of communities in Ohio and the United States, including all of the following: (a) African American communities; (b) Asian American and Pacific Islander communities; (c) Arab, African, and North African immigrant, refugee, and asylee communities; (d) Appalachian communities; (e) Jewish communities; (f) Latin American communities; (g) Native American communities.

Message: OEA supports the favorable passage of HB 171 because all of Ohio's students deserve a complete and honest education that truly reflects the contributions of every Ohioan to the history of our country, state, and communities.

- School is a **place where children develop their understanding** of the world and their ability to make meaningful change in it.
- We have faith in our kids' ability to process new and complex information. Learning about different histories, races, and cultures **gives students mirrors that reflect their own identities** and windows into the world. Rather than using classrooms as political battlegrounds, let's allow our educators to empower students and prepare them for a more global future.
- Students deserve an education that truly **reflects their backgrounds and communities**. HB 171 would do just that by educating students about the experiences, migration, and contributions of a range of communities that already, and in many cases, have long called Ohio home.
- An updated model curriculum would **provide rich, engaging options for teaching social studies** in Ohio. It will equip teachers with well-developed activities and lessons that can support and develop respect for the students in our classrooms who come from different histories than our own.
- Education is the first step to building kinder adults by teaching empathy and understanding of new and different knowledge. HB 171 seeks to foster and support empathy by **reflecting all of Ohio's communities**, ensuring our students truly feel seen in their classrooms statewide.
- We fail our kids when we don't provide them with an education that truly **mirrors Ohio's current makeup as a state**. HB 171 can solve for that by educating students about the experiences, migration, and contributions of a range of communities that already, and in many cases, have long called Ohio home.

