STATE OF NEW YORK

8347

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 13, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring September eleventh awareness curriculum or instruction for school districts

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 804-e to read as follows:

§ 804-e. September eleventh awareness curriculum or instruction. 1. The commissioner, in consultation with any appropriate agency, shall establish September eleventh (9/11) awareness curriculum or instruction for school districts regarding the September eleventh, two thousand one attacks on the United States of America and their ongoing repercussions. The content of such curriculum or instruction may be varied to meet the needs of particular school districts, or portions thereof, and need not be uniform throughout the state.

2. The content of such curriculum or instruction shall be age appropriate and shall be developed according to the needs and abilities of pupils at successive grade levels in order to provide skills, information, and guidance to aid in September eleventh awareness.

3. The content of the curriculum or instruction shall include the following core tenents and themes:

(a) antecedents of 9/11;

(b) the events of the day and the global impact of the attacks;

(c) the response by first responders and other agencies on 9/11 and during the ensuing rescue and recovery operation which lasted until May thirtieth, two thousand twenty-two;

(d) examples of heroism, resilience, and service that emerged during and after 9/11 from people all over the world;

(e) the global response to terrorism following the events of 9/11;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(f) understanding the enduring repercussions of 9/11 including, but not limited to, discussion of the balance between civil liberties and national security, America's response to confronting and combating discrimination post-9/11, and the social impacts that followed; and

(g) understanding how 9/11 and its aftermath contributed to the following in the United States and abroad:

(i) Islamophobia and xenophobia in politics, domestic and foreign policy/legislation, media, and general public attitudes;

(ii) increase in hate crimes and discrimination; and

(iii) the impact of Islamophobia, xenophobia, racism, religious intolerance, and other forms of discrimination in society.

4. The educational resources used in the curriculum or instruction shall be age appropriate, factually accurate, sourced from reputable sources such as the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, and aid in students' understanding of what happened on 9/11 and in its aftermath, and the continuing importance of the attacks today.

5. Schools may include the curriculum or instruction required by this section as a component of its social studies curriculum or in any other manner the school deems appropriate.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date upon which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.