

# STATE OF NEW YORK

10790

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 1, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to courses of instruction  
on the constitution of the United States and the federalist papers

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 801 of the education law,  
2 subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 481 of the laws of 1949 and subdivi-  
3 sion 3 as amended by section 27 of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of  
4 2020, are amended and a new subdivision 6 is added to read as follows:

5 2. The regents shall prescribe courses of instruction in the history,  
6 meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution  
7 of the United States, the amendments thereto, the federalist papers, the  
8 declaration of independence, the constitution of the state of New York  
9 and the amendments thereto, to be maintained and followed in all of the  
10 schools of the state. The boards of education and trustees of the  
11 several cities and school districts of the state shall require instruc-  
12 tion to be given in such courses, by the teachers employed in the  
13 schools therein. All pupils attending such schools, in the eighth and  
14 higher grades, shall attend upon such instruction.

15 Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in  
16 private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools in grades  
17 or classes corresponding to the instruction in the eighth and higher  
18 grades of the public schools shall attend upon such courses. If such  
19 courses are not so established and maintained in a private school,  
20 attendance upon instruction in such school shall not be deemed substan-  
21 tially equivalent to instruction given to pupils in the public schools  
22 of the city or district in which such pupils reside.

23 3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such  
24 courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, civic education and  
25 values, our shared history of diversity, the role of history of diversi-  
26 ty, the role of religious tolerance in this country, and human rights  
27 issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of  
28 genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground rail-

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

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1 road), the Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to  
2 1850, and in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the  
3 provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments  
4 thereto, the federalist papers, the declaration of independence, the  
5 constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto, and  
6 the period of instruction in each of the grades in such subjects. They  
7 shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such instruction and for  
8 such other matters as are required for carrying into effect the objects  
9 and purposes of this section. The commissioner shall be responsible for  
10 the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be inspected and  
11 supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects. The commissioner  
12 may, in [~~his~~] such commissioner's discretion, cause all or a portion of  
13 the public school money to be apportioned to a district or city to be  
14 withheld for failure of the school authorities of such district or city  
15 to provide instruction in such courses and to compel attendance upon  
16 such instruction, as herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with  
17 the rules of the regents adopted as herein provided.

18 6. The regents shall establish and implement a course of instruction  
19 on the history, meaning, significance and effect of the federalist  
20 papers and the provisions of the constitution of the United States and  
21 all amendments thereto. Such course of instruction established pursuant  
22 to this subdivision shall be provided to all pupils in grades nine  
23 through twelve.

24 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding  
25 the date on which it shall have become a law.