

SENATE, No. 2828

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 17, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE to develop credential to introduce teachers to culturally responsive teaching practices, characteristics, and methods.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing a culturally responsive teaching credential and
2 supplementing chapter 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. The Department of Education, in partnership with the
9 Diverse and Learner-Ready Teachers Initiative of the Council of
10 Chief State School Officers or other equivalent entity, shall develop
11 a credential for culturally responsive teaching. The purpose of the
12 credential shall be to introduce teachers to culturally responsive
13 teaching practices, characteristics, and methods that acknowledge,
14 respond to, and embrace the cultural backgrounds of all students to
15 help ensure full, equitable access to education. The credential for
16 culturally responsive teaching shall be made available to teachers
17 beginning in the first full school year following the date of
18 enactment of this act.

19 As used in this section, “culturally responsive teaching” means a
20 pedagogy that recognizes the importance of including students’
21 cultural references in all aspects of learning, and which uses
22 research-based teaching strategies that make meaningful
23 connections between what students learn in school and their
24 cultures, languages, and experiences.

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26 2. The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and
27 regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
28 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as it may deem necessary to
29 effectuate the provisions of this act.

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31 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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34 STATEMENT

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36 This bill directs the Department of Education, in partnership with
37 the Diverse and Learner-Ready Teachers Initiative or equivalent
38 entity, to develop a credential for culturally responsive teaching.
39 The Diverse and Learner-Ready Teachers Initiative is an effort of
40 the Council of Chief State School Officers, which strives to revise,
41 enact or remove state policies that will address specific challenges
42 for both diversifying the educator workforce and ensuring all
43 educators are culturally responsive in practice.

44 Under the bill, the purpose of the credential would be to
45 introduce teachers to culturally responsive teaching practices,
46 characteristics, and methods that acknowledge, respond to, and
47 embrace the cultural backgrounds of all students to help ensure full,
48 equitable access to education. The credential for culturally

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1 responsive teaching will be made available to teachers beginning in
2 the first full school year following the date of enactment of the bill.

3 As defined in the bill, culturally responsive teaching is a
4 pedagogy that recognizes the importance of including students'
5 cultural references in all aspects of learning, and which uses
6 research-based teaching strategies that make meaningful
7 connections between what students learn in school and their
8 cultures, languages, and experiences.