

**SENATE, No. 2834**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED AUGUST 17, 2020

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**  
**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Mandates training on culturally responsive teaching for all candidates for teaching certification.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain training for prospective teachers 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. a. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, all candidates  
9 for teaching certification who have completed an educator  
10 preparation program at a commissioner-approved educator  
11 preparation program provider shall have satisfactorily completed a  
12 course or training on culturally responsive teaching.

13 b. All commissioner-approved educator preparation program  
14 providers shall review and update their educator preparation  
15 programs to implement the requirements of this section and submit  
16 the revisions to the Department of Education for approval.

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

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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27 STATEMENT

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29 This bill provides that, beginning with the 2021-2022 school  
30 year, all candidates for teaching certification who have completed  
31 an educator preparation program at a commissioner-approved  
32 educator preparation program provider must have satisfactorily  
33 completed a course or training on culturally responsive teaching.

34 The bill further requires that all commissioner-approved educator  
35 preparation program providers review and update their educator  
36 preparation programs to implement the bill’s requirements and  
37 submit the revisions to the Department of Education for approval.

38 The bill defines “culturally responsive teaching” to mean: a  
39 pedagogy that recognizes the importance of including students’  
40 cultural references in all aspects of learning, and which uses  
41 research-based teaching strategies that make meaningful  
42 connections between what students learn in school and their  
43 cultures, languages, and experiences.