

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; providing a short title;  
3           amending s. 1000.05, F.S.; removing provisions  
4           relating to prohibited training or instruction in  
5           specified concepts which constitutes discrimination on  
6           the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex;  
7           repealing s. 1000.071, F.S., relating to personal  
8           titles and pronouns; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.;  
9           prohibiting school districts from adopting a procedure  
10          that compels or authorizes school personnel to share  
11          certain information with a parent under certain  
12          circumstances; removing a provision authorizing school  
13          districts to adopt procedures that permit school  
14          personnel to withhold certain information from a  
15          parent under certain circumstances; removing a  
16          prohibition against classroom instruction on sexual  
17          orientation and gender identity in specified grades;  
18          removing an exception; removing a provision requiring  
19          student support services to adhere to specified  
20          guidelines; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; removing a  
21          requirement for the Board of Governors to include in  
22          its review of state university missions a directive to  
23          each university regarding its programs for curricula  
24          that violate certain provisions; amending s. 1001.92,  
25          F.S.; removing provisions relating to a state

26 | university losing its eligibility for performance  
27 | funding if a certain violation is substantiated;  
28 | amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring instruction in  
29 | LGBTQ history in public schools; amending s. 1004.04,  
30 | F.S.; removing provisions relating to teacher  
31 | preparation program requirements; amending s. 1004.06,  
32 | F.S.; authorizing and encouraging Florida College  
33 | System institutions, state universities, and direct-  
34 | support organizations to develop programs and campus  
35 | activities based on diversity, equity, and inclusion  
36 | principles; authorizing the expenditure of state and  
37 | federal funds to promote such programs and activities;  
38 | removing a prohibition against such institutions,  
39 | universities, and organizations expending funds on  
40 | programs and campus activities that advocate for  
41 | diversity, equity, and inclusion or that promote or  
42 | engage in political or social activism; amending s.  
43 | 1004.85, F.S.; removing a requirement that certain  
44 | instruction be included in postsecondary educator  
45 | preparation institutes; amending s. 1006.28, F.S.;  
46 | providing that certain provisions relating to district  
47 | school board duties and materials made available in  
48 | schools do not apply to classroom libraries; revising  
49 | requirements for resolving objections to instructional  
50 | materials; removing a requirement that any

51 instructional material that is subject to an objection  
52 be removed within 5 school days; removing a  
53 requirement that a school board discontinue the use of  
54 an instructional material if certain conditions are  
55 met; providing that school libraries may provide  
56 materials and information presenting all points of  
57 view; providing that materials may not be proscribed  
58 or removed due to partisan or doctrinal disapproval;  
59 amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; removing certain  
60 prohibitions for general education courses; amending  
61 ss. 1012.56 and 1012.562, F.S.; removing requirements  
62 for professional learning certificate program courses  
63 and school leader preparation programs; providing an  
64 effective date.

65  
66 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

67  
68 **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Freedom to Learn  
69 Act."

70 **Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1000.05, Florida**  
71 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

72 1000.05 Discrimination against students and employees in  
73 the Florida K-20 public education system prohibited; equality of  
74 access required.—

75 ~~(4)(a) It shall constitute discrimination on the basis of~~

76 ~~race, color, national origin, or sex under this section to~~  
77 ~~subject any student or employee to training or instruction that~~  
78 ~~espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates, or compels such~~  
79 ~~student or employee to believe any of the following concepts:~~

80 ~~1. Members of one race, color, national origin, or sex are~~  
81 ~~morally superior to members of another race, color, national~~  
82 ~~origin, or sex.~~

83 ~~2. A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, national~~  
84 ~~origin, or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive,~~  
85 ~~whether consciously or unconsciously.~~

86 ~~3. A person's moral character or status as either~~  
87 ~~privileged or oppressed is necessarily determined by his or her~~  
88 ~~race, color, national origin, or sex.~~

89 ~~4. Members of one race, color, national origin, or sex~~  
90 ~~cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to~~  
91 ~~race, color, national origin, or sex.~~

92 ~~5. A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, national~~  
93 ~~origin, or sex, bears responsibility for, or should be~~  
94 ~~discriminated against or receive adverse treatment because of,~~  
95 ~~actions committed in the past by other members of the same race,~~  
96 ~~color, national origin, or sex.~~

97 ~~6. A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, national~~  
98 ~~origin, or sex, should be discriminated against or receive~~  
99 ~~adverse treatment to achieve diversity, equity, or inclusion.~~

100 ~~7. A person, by virtue of his or her race, color, sex, or~~

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101 ~~national origin, bears personal responsibility for and must feel~~  
102 ~~guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress because~~  
103 ~~of actions, in which the person played no part, committed in the~~  
104 ~~past by other members of the same race, color, national origin,~~  
105 ~~or sex.~~

106 ~~8. Such virtues as merit, excellence, hard work, fairness,~~  
107 ~~neutrality, objectivity, and racial colorblindness are racist or~~  
108 ~~sexist, or were created by members of a particular race, color,~~  
109 ~~national origin, or sex to oppress members of another race,~~  
110 ~~color, national origin, or sex.~~

111 ~~(b) Paragraph (a) may not be construed to prohibit~~  
112 ~~discussion of the concepts listed therein as part of a larger~~  
113 ~~course of training or instruction, provided such training or~~  
114 ~~instruction is given in an objective manner without endorsement~~  
115 ~~of the concepts.~~

116 **Section 3.** Section 1000.071, Florida Statutes, is  
117 repealed.

118 **Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section**  
119 **1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

120 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The  
121 district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all  
122 powers and perform all duties listed below:

123 (8) STUDENT WELFARE.—

124 (c)1. In accordance with the rights of parents enumerated  
125 in ss. 1002.20 and 1014.04, adopt procedures for notifying a

126 student's parent if there is a change in the student's services  
127 or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or  
128 physical health or well-being and the school's ability to  
129 provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the  
130 student. The procedures must reinforce the fundamental right of  
131 parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control  
132 of their children by requiring school district personnel to  
133 encourage a student to discuss issues relating to his or her  
134 well-being with his or her parent or to facilitate discussion of  
135 the issue with the parent. The procedures may not prohibit  
136 parents from accessing any of their student's education and  
137 health records created, maintained, or used by the school  
138 district, as required by s. 1002.22(2).

139 2. A school district may not adopt procedures or student  
140 support forms that prohibit school district personnel from  
141 notifying a parent about his or her student's mental, emotional,  
142 or physical health or well-being, or a change in related  
143 services or monitoring, or that encourage or have the effect of  
144 encouraging a student to withhold from a parent such  
145 information. School district personnel may not discourage or  
146 prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical  
147 decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical  
148 health or well-being. A school district may not adopt a  
149 procedure that compels or authorizes school personnel to provide  
150 such information to a parent if a reasonably prudent person

151 would believe that disclosure would result in harm to the  
152 student, including, but not limited to, ~~This subparagraph does~~  
153 ~~not prohibit a school district from adopting procedures that~~  
154 ~~permit school personnel to withhold such information from a~~  
155 ~~parent if a reasonably prudent person would believe that~~  
156 ~~disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect, as~~  
157 ~~those terms are defined in s. 39.01.~~

158 3. ~~Classroom instruction by school personnel or third~~  
159 ~~parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur~~  
160 ~~in prekindergarten through grade 8, except when required by ss.~~  
161 ~~1003.42(2)(c)3. and 1003.46. If such instruction is provided in~~  
162 ~~grades 9 through 12, the instruction must be age appropriate or~~  
163 ~~developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with~~  
164 ~~state standards. This subparagraph applies to charter schools.~~

165 4. ~~Student support services training developed or provided~~  
166 ~~by a school district to school district personnel must adhere to~~  
167 ~~student services guidelines, standards, and frameworks~~  
168 ~~established by the Department of Education.~~

169 5. At the beginning of the school year, each school  
170 district shall notify parents of each health care service  
171 offered at their student's school and the option to withhold  
172 consent or decline any specific service in accordance with s.  
173 1014.06. Parental consent to a health care service does not  
174 waive the parent's right to access his or her student's  
175 educational or health records or to be notified about a change

176 in his or her student's services or monitoring as provided by  
177 this paragraph.

178 ~~4.6.~~ Before administering a student well-being  
179 questionnaire or health screening form to a student in  
180 kindergarten through grade 3, the school district must provide  
181 the questionnaire or health screening form to the parent and  
182 obtain the permission of the parent.

183 ~~5.7.~~ Each school district shall adopt procedures for a  
184 parent to notify the principal, or his or her designee,  
185 regarding concerns under this paragraph at his or her student's  
186 school and the process for resolving those concerns within 7  
187 calendar days after notification by the parent.

188 a. At a minimum, the procedures must require that within  
189 30 days after notification by the parent that the concern  
190 remains unresolved, the school district must either resolve the  
191 concern or provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving  
192 the concern.

193 b. If a concern is not resolved by the school district, a  
194 parent may:

195 (I) Request the Commissioner of Education to appoint a  
196 special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good  
197 standing and who has at least 5 years' experience in  
198 administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts  
199 relating to the dispute over the school district procedure or  
200 practice, consider information provided by the school district,



201 and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State  
 202 Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request  
 203 by the parent. The State Board of Education must approve or  
 204 reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled  
 205 meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30  
 206 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The  
 207 costs of the special magistrate shall be borne by the school  
 208 district. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules,  
 209 including forms, necessary to implement this subparagraph.

210 (II) Bring an action against the school district to obtain  
 211 a declaratory judgment that the school district procedure or  
 212 practice violates this paragraph and seek injunctive relief. A  
 213 court may award damages and shall award reasonable attorney fees  
 214 and court costs to a parent who receives declaratory or  
 215 injunctive relief.

216 c. Each school district shall adopt and post on its  
 217 website policies to notify parents of the procedures required  
 218 under this subparagraph.

219 d. Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be  
 220 construed to abridge or alter rights of action or remedies in  
 221 equity already existing under the common law or general law.

222 **Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section**  
 223 **1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

224 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

225 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO ACCOUNTABILITY.—

226 (a) The Legislature intends that the Board of Governors  
227 shall align the missions of each constituent university with the  
228 academic success of its students; the existing and emerging  
229 economic development needs of the state; the national reputation  
230 of its faculty and its academic and research programs; the  
231 quantity of externally generated research, patents, and  
232 licenses; and the strategic and accountability plans required in  
233 paragraphs (b) and (c). The Board of Governors shall  
234 periodically review the mission of each constituent university  
235 and make updates or revisions as needed. Upon completion of a  
236 review of the mission, the board shall review existing academic  
237 programs for alignment with the mission. ~~The board shall include~~  
238 ~~in its review a directive to each constituent university~~  
239 ~~regarding its programs for any curriculum that violates s.~~  
240 ~~1000.05 or that is based on theories that systemic racism,~~  
241 ~~sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the~~  
242 ~~institutions of the United States and were created to maintain~~  
243 ~~social, political, and economic inequities.~~ The mission  
244 alignment and strategic plan must consider peer institutions at  
245 the constituent universities. The mission alignment and  
246 strategic plan must acknowledge that universities that have a  
247 national and international impact have the greatest capacity to  
248 promote the state's economic development through: new  
249 discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate  
250 state businesses of global importance; research achievements

251 through external grants and contracts that are comparable to  
 252 nationally recognized and ranked universities; the creation of a  
 253 resource rich academic environment that attracts high-technology  
 254 business and venture capital to the state; and this generation's  
 255 finest minds focusing on solving the state's economic, social,  
 256 environmental, and legal problems in the areas of life sciences,  
 257 water, sustainability, energy, and health care. A nationally  
 258 recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective  
 259 and impact must be afforded the opportunity to enable and  
 260 protect the university's competitiveness on the global stage in  
 261 fair competition with other institutions of other states in the  
 262 highest Carnegie Classification.

263 **Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 1001.92, Florida**  
 264 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

265 1001.92 State University System Performance-Based  
 266 Incentive.—

267 ~~(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,~~  
 268 ~~if any institution is found to have a substantiated violation of~~  
 269 ~~s. 1000.05(4)(a), the institution shall be ineligible to receive~~  
 270 ~~performance funding during the next fiscal year following the~~  
 271 ~~year in which the violation is substantiated. Substantiated~~  
 272 ~~findings are those as determined by a court of law, a standing~~  
 273 ~~committee of the Legislature, or the Board of Governors.~~

274 **Section 7. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section**  
 275 **1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (w) is**

276 **added to that subsection, to read:**

277 1003.42 Required instruction.—

278 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
279 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
280 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
281 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
282 highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,  
283 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
284 approved methods of instruction, the following:

285 (g)1. The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the  
286 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other  
287 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of  
288 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an  
289 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the  
290 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an  
291 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful  
292 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity  
293 in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting  
294 democratic values and institutions, including the policy,  
295 definition, and historical and current examples of antisemitism,  
296 as described in s. 1000.05(7) ~~s. 1000.05(8)~~, and the prevention  
297 of antisemitism. Each school district must annually certify and  
298 provide evidence to the department, in a manner prescribed by  
299 the department, that the requirements of this paragraph are met.  
300 The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum

301 for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek  
302 input from the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on  
303 Holocaust Education or from any state or nationally recognized  
304 Holocaust educational organizations. The department may contract  
305 with any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational  
306 organizations to develop training for instructional personnel  
307 and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the  
308 developed curriculum.

309 2. The second week in November shall be designated as  
310 "Holocaust Education Week" in this state in recognition that  
311 November is the anniversary of Kristallnacht, widely recognized  
312 as a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.

313 (w) The study of LGBTQ history in Florida and the LGBTQ  
314 community's contributions to the United States, which may  
315 include important United States Supreme Court cases such as  
316 *Obergefell v. Hodges* and *United States v. Windsor*; the Florida  
317 Legislative Investigation Committee; and the tragedy at Pulse  
318 Nightclub.

319  
320 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
321 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.  
322 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the  
323 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
324 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
325 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness

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326 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

327 **Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section**  
328 **1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

329 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
330 teacher preparation programs.—

331 (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

332 ~~(c) Teacher preparation program courses:~~

333 ~~1. May not distort significant historical events or~~  
334 ~~include a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity~~  
335 ~~politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that~~  
336 ~~systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent~~  
337 ~~in the institutions of the United States and were created to~~  
338 ~~maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~

339 ~~2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think~~  
340 ~~critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn~~  
341 ~~instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.~~

342 **Section 9. Subsection (4) of section 1004.06, Florida**  
343 **Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (3), and subsections (2)**  
344 **and (3) of that section are amended to read:**

345 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures.—

346 (2) A Florida College System institution, state  
347 university, Florida College System institution direct-support  
348 organization, or state university direct-support organization  
349 may, and is encouraged to, develop programs and campus  
350 activities anchored in the principles of diversity, equity, and

351 inclusion. Programs and campus activities may not expend any  
352 state or federal funds to promote, support, or maintain any such  
353 programs or campus activities that:

354 ~~(a) Violate s. 1000.05; or~~

355 ~~(b) Advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, or~~  
356 ~~promote or engage in political or social activism, as defined by~~  
357 ~~rules of the State Board of Education and regulations of the~~  
358 ~~Board of Governors.~~

359  
360 Student fees to support student-led organizations are permitted  
361 ~~notwithstanding any speech or expressive activity by such~~  
362 ~~organizations which would otherwise violate this subsection,~~  
363 provided that the public funds must be allocated to student-led  
364 organizations pursuant to written policies or regulations of  
365 each Florida College System institution or state university, as  
366 applicable. Use of institution facilities by student-led  
367 organizations is permitted ~~notwithstanding any speech or~~  
368 ~~expressive activity by such organizations which would otherwise~~  
369 ~~violate this subsection,~~ provided that such use must be granted  
370 to student-led organizations pursuant to written policies or  
371 regulations of each Florida College System institution or state  
372 university, as applicable.

373 ~~(3) Subsection (2) does not prohibit programs, campus~~  
374 ~~activities, or functions required for compliance with general or~~  
375 ~~federal laws or regulations; for obtaining or retaining~~

376 ~~institutional or discipline specific accreditation with the~~  
 377 ~~approval of either the State Board of Education or the Board of~~  
 378 ~~Governors; or for access programs for military veterans, Pell~~  
 379 ~~Grant recipients, first generation college students,~~  
 380 ~~nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer students from the~~  
 381 ~~Florida College System, students from low-income families, or~~  
 382 ~~students with unique abilities.~~

383 **Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**  
 384 **1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

385 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

386 (2) (a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or  
 387 approved as described in State Board of Education rule may seek  
 388 approval from the Department of Education to create educator  
 389 preparation institutes for the purpose of providing any or all  
 390 of the following:

391 1. Professional learning instruction to assist teachers in  
 392 improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification or  
 393 recertification requirements.

394 2. Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute  
 395 teachers in performing their duties.

396 3. Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting  
 397 education and training requirements.

398 4. Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become  
 399 certified teachers as provided in this section in order to  
 400 increase routes to the classroom for professionals who hold a



401 baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were not  
402 education majors.

403 5. Instruction and professional learning for part-time and  
404 full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs under s.  
405 1012.39(1)(c).

406 ~~6. Instruction that does not distort significant~~  
407 ~~historical events or include a curriculum or instruction that~~  
408 ~~teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on~~  
409 ~~theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege~~  
410 ~~are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were~~  
411 ~~created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~  
412 ~~Courses and instruction within the educator preparation~~  
413 ~~institute must afford candidates the opportunity to think~~  
414 ~~critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn~~  
415 ~~instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.~~

416 **Section 11. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2) of**  
417 **section 1006.28, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

418 1006.28 Duties of district school board, district school  
419 superintendent; and school principal regarding K-12  
420 instructional materials.—

421 (2) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.—The district school board has  
422 the constitutional duty and responsibility to select and provide  
423 adequate instructional materials for all students in accordance  
424 with the requirements of this part. The district school board  
425 also has the following specific duties and responsibilities:

426 (a) *Courses of study; adoption.*—Adopt courses of study,  
427 including instructional materials, for use in the schools of the  
428 district.

429 1. Each district school board is responsible for the  
430 content of all instructional materials and any other materials  
431 used in a classroom, made available in a school ~~or classroom~~  
432 library, or included on a reading list, whether adopted and  
433 purchased from the state-adopted instructional materials list,  
434 adopted and purchased through a district instructional materials  
435 program under s. 1006.283, or otherwise purchased or made  
436 available.

437 2. Each district school board must adopt a policy  
438 regarding an objection by a parent ~~or a resident of the county~~  
439 to the use of a specific material, which clearly describes a  
440 process to handle all objections and provides for resolution.  
441 The objection form, as prescribed by State Board of Education  
442 rule, and the district school board's process must be easy to  
443 read and understand and be easily accessible on the homepage of  
444 the school district's website. The objection form must also  
445 identify the school district point of contact and contact  
446 information for the submission of an objection. The process must  
447 provide the parent ~~or resident~~ the opportunity to proffer  
448 evidence to the district school board that:

449 a. An instructional material does not meet the criteria of  
450 s. 1006.31(2) or s. 1006.40(3)(c) if it was selected for use in

451 a course or otherwise made available to students in the school  
452 district but was not subject to the public notice, review,  
453 comment, and hearing procedures under s. 1006.283(2)(b)8., 9.,  
454 and 11.

455 b. Any material used in a classroom, made available in a  
456 school ~~or classroom~~ library, or included on a reading list  
457 contains content which:

458 (I) Is pornographic or prohibited under s. 847.012;

459 (II) ~~Depicts or describes sexual conduct as defined in s.~~  
460 ~~847.001(19), unless such material is for a course required by s.~~  
461 ~~1003.46 or s. 1003.42(2)(o)1.g. or 3., or identified by State~~  
462 ~~Board of Education rule;~~

463 ~~(III)~~ Is not suited to student needs and their ability to  
464 comprehend the material presented; or

465 (III) ~~(IV)~~ Is inappropriate for the grade level and age  
466 group for which the material is used.

467  
468 ~~A resident of the county who is not the parent or guardian of a~~  
469 ~~student with access to school district materials may not object~~  
470 ~~to more than one material per month. The State Board of~~  
471 ~~Education may adopt rules to implement this provision. Any~~  
472 ~~material that is subject to an objection on the basis of sub-~~  
473 ~~sub-subparagraph b.(I) or sub-sub-subparagraph b.(II) must be~~  
474 ~~removed within 5 school days after receipt of the objection and~~  
475 ~~remain unavailable to students of that school until the~~

476 ~~objection is resolved.~~ Parents shall have the right to read  
477 passages from any material that is subject to an objection. ~~If~~  
478 ~~the school board denies a parent the right to read passages due~~  
479 ~~to content that meets the requirements under sub-sub-~~  
480 ~~subparagraph b.(I), the school district shall discontinue the~~  
481 ~~use of the material in the school district. If the district~~  
482 ~~school board finds that any material meets the requirements~~  
483 ~~under sub-subparagraph a. or that any other material contains~~  
484 ~~prohibited content under sub-sub-subparagraph b.(I), the school~~  
485 ~~district shall discontinue use of the material. If the district~~  
486 ~~school board finds that any other material contains prohibited~~  
487 ~~content under sub-sub-subparagraphs b.(II)-(IV), the school~~  
488 ~~district shall discontinue use of the material for any grade~~  
489 ~~level or age group for which such use is inappropriate or~~  
490 ~~unsuitable.~~

491 3. Each district school board must establish a process by  
492 which the parent of a public school student ~~or a resident of the~~  
493 ~~county~~ may contest the district school board's adoption of a  
494 specific instructional material. The parent ~~or resident~~ must  
495 file a petition, on a form provided by the school board, within  
496 30 calendar days after the adoption of the instructional  
497 material by the school board. The school board must make the  
498 form available to the public and publish the form on the school  
499 district's website. The form must be signed by the parent ~~or~~  
500 ~~resident~~, include the required contact information, and state

501 the objection to the instructional material based on the  
502 criteria of s. 1006.31(2) or s. 1006.40(3)(c). Within 30 days  
503 after the 30-day period has expired, the school board must, for  
504 all petitions timely received, conduct at least one open public  
505 hearing before an unbiased and qualified hearing officer. The  
506 hearing officer may not be an employee or agent of the school  
507 district. The hearing is not subject to the provisions of  
508 chapter 120; however, the hearing must provide sufficient  
509 procedural protections to allow each petitioner an adequate and  
510 fair opportunity to be heard and present evidence to the hearing  
511 officer. The school board's decision after convening a hearing  
512 is final and not subject to further petition or review.

513 4. Meetings of committees convened for the purpose of  
514 ranking, eliminating, or selecting instructional materials for  
515 recommendation to the district school board must be noticed and  
516 open to the public in accordance with s. 286.011. Any committees  
517 convened for such purposes must include parents of students who  
518 will have access to such materials.

519 5. Meetings of committees convened for the purpose of  
520 resolving an objection by a parent ~~or resident~~ to specific  
521 materials must be noticed and open to the public in accordance  
522 with s. 286.011. Any committees convened for such purposes must  
523 include parents of students who will have access to such  
524 materials.

525 6. If a parent disagrees with the determination made by

526 | the district school board on the objection to the use of a  
527 | specific material, a parent may request the Commissioner of  
528 | Education to appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The  
529 | Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least 5 years'  
530 | experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall  
531 | determine facts relating to the school district's determination,  
532 | consider information provided by the parent and the school  
533 | district, and render a recommended decision for resolution to  
534 | the State Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the  
535 | request by the parent. The State Board of Education must approve  
536 | or reject the recommended decision at its next regularly  
537 | scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more  
538 | than 30 days after the date the recommended decision is  
539 | transmitted. The costs of the special magistrate shall be borne  
540 | by the school district. The State Board of Education shall adopt  
541 | rules, including forms, necessary to implement this  
542 | subparagraph.

543 |       (d) *School library media services; establishment and*  
544 | *maintenance.*—Establish and maintain a program of school library  
545 | media services for all public schools in the district, including  
546 | school library media centers, or school library media centers  
547 | open to the public, and, in addition such traveling or  
548 | circulating libraries as may be needed for the proper operation  
549 | of the district school system. Beginning January 1, 2023, school  
550 | librarians, media specialists, and other personnel involved in

551 the selection of school district library materials must complete  
552 the training program developed pursuant to s. 1006.29(6) before  
553 reviewing and selecting age-appropriate materials and library  
554 resources. Upon written request, a school district shall provide  
555 access to any material or book specified in the request that is  
556 maintained in a district school system library and is available  
557 for review.

558 1. Each book made available to students through a school  
559 district library media center or included in a recommended or  
560 assigned school or grade-level reading list must be selected by  
561 a school district employee who holds a valid educational media  
562 specialist certificate, regardless of whether the book is  
563 purchased, donated, or otherwise made available to students.

564 2. Each district school board shall adopt procedures for  
565 developing library media center collections and post the  
566 procedures on the website for each school within the district.  
567 School libraries may provide materials and information  
568 presenting all points of view on current and historical issues.  
569 Materials may not be proscribed or removed because of partisan  
570 or doctrinal disapproval. The procedures must:

571 a. Require that book selections meet the criteria in s.  
572 1006.40(3)(c).

573 b. Require consultation of reputable, professionally  
574 recognized reviewing periodicals and school community  
575 stakeholders.

576 c. Provide for library media center collections, including  
577 classroom libraries, based on reader interest, support of state  
578 academic standards and aligned curriculum, and the academic  
579 needs of students and faculty.

580 d. Provide for the regular removal or discontinuance of  
581 books based on, at a minimum, physical condition, rate of recent  
582 circulation, alignment to state academic standards and relevancy  
583 to curriculum, out-of-date content, and required removal  
584 pursuant to subparagraph (a)2.

585 3. Each elementary school must publish on its website, in  
586 a searchable format prescribed by the department, a list of all  
587 materials maintained and accessible in the school library media  
588 center ~~or a classroom library~~ or required as part of a school or  
589 grade-level reading list.

590 4. Each district school board shall adopt and publish on  
591 its website the process for a parent to limit his or her  
592 student's access to materials in the school ~~or classroom~~  
593 library.

594 **Section 12. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section**  
595 **1007.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

596 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
597 other degree requirements.—

598 (3) The chair of the State Board of Education and the  
599 chair of the Board of Governors, or their designees, shall  
600 jointly appoint faculty committees to review and recommend to



601 the Articulation Coordinating Committee for approval by the  
602 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors statewide  
603 general education core course options for inclusion in the  
604 statewide course numbering system established under s. 1007.24.  
605 Faculty committees shall, by July 1, 2024, and by July 1 every 4  
606 years thereafter, review and submit recommendations to the  
607 Articulation Coordinating Committee and the commissioner for the  
608 removal, alignment, realignment, or addition of general  
609 education core courses that satisfy the requirements of this  
610 subsection.

611 ~~(c) General education core courses may not distort~~  
612 ~~significant historical events or include a curriculum that~~  
613 ~~teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on~~  
614 ~~theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege~~  
615 ~~are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were~~  
616 ~~created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~

617 **Section 13. Paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section**  
618 **1012.56, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (b), and**  
619 **paragraph (a) of subsection (7) and present paragraph (b) of**  
620 **subsection (8) of that section are amended to read:**

621 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

622 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

623 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional  
624 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant  
625 who fulfills one of the following:

- 626           1. Meets all the applicable requirements outlined in  
 627 subsection (2).
- 628           2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6  
 629 through 12:
- 630           a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-  
 631 (h).
- 632           b. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of  
 633 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.
- 634           c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the  
 635 advanced degree.
- 636           d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the  
 637 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part  
 638 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized  
 639 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International  
 640 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate  
 641 examination.
- 642           e. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional  
 643 education competency examination required by state board rule.
- 644           3. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-  
 645 (h) and completes a professional learning certification program  
 646 approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8) (b) ~~(8) (c)~~  
 647 or an educator preparation institute approved by the department  
 648 pursuant to s. 1004.85. An applicant who completes one of these  
 649 programs and is rated highly effective as determined by his or  
 650 her performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 is not required to

651 take or achieve a passing score on the professional education  
652 competency examination in order to be awarded a professional  
653 certificate.

654  
655 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is  
656 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the  
657 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will  
658 expire and provide a list of each method by which the  
659 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

660 (8) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—

661 ~~(b) Professional learning certification program courses:~~

662 ~~1. May not distort significant historical events or~~  
663 ~~include curriculum or instruction that teaches identity~~  
664 ~~politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that~~  
665 ~~systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent~~  
666 ~~in the institutions of the United States and were created to~~  
667 ~~maintain social, political, and economic inequities.~~

668 ~~2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think~~  
669 ~~critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn~~  
670 ~~instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.~~

671 **Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 1012.562, Florida**  
672 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

673 1012.562 Public accountability and state approval of  
674 school leader preparation programs.—The Department of Education  
675 shall establish a process for the approval of Level I and Level

676 II school leader preparation programs that will enable aspiring  
677 school leaders to obtain their certificates in educational  
678 leadership under s. 1012.56. School leader preparation programs  
679 must be competency-based, aligned to the principal leadership  
680 standards adopted by the state board, and open to individuals  
681 employed by public schools, including charter schools and  
682 virtual schools. Level I programs lead to initial certification  
683 in educational leadership for the purpose of preparing  
684 individuals to serve as school administrators. Level II programs  
685 build upon Level I training and lead to renewal certification as  
686 a school principal.

687 ~~(4) PROGRAM PROHIBITIONS; REQUIREMENTS.—~~

688 ~~(a) School leader preparation programs may not distort~~  
689 ~~significant historical events or include curriculum or~~  
690 ~~instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05,~~  
691 ~~or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism,~~  
692 ~~oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of~~  
693 ~~the United States and were created to maintain social,~~  
694 ~~political, and economic inequities.~~

695 ~~(b) School leader preparation programs must afford~~  
696 ~~candidates the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of program~~  
697 ~~content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching~~  
698 ~~development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.~~

699 **Section 15.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.