



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

Senate Bill 702 - Social Studies Standards Review

Senate Education Committee

March 9, 2021

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Jessica Ventura, Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). The following information is to provide more context as you consider Senate Bill (SB) 702. We do not have a position on the bill. We welcome any opportunity to continue to be involved in this very important discussion.

CURRENT LAW

The [current Social Studies Standards](#) were adopted by the State Board of Education in 2018. The 2018 social science standards include civics and government standards at every grade level. Most school districts began to implement these standards in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 along with the purchase of instructional materials aligned to the 2018 social science standards. Ethnic Studies standards were adopted by the State Board of Education as directed by HB 2845 (2017) on [February 16, 2021](#). Ethnic Studies Standards are now optional for districts to implement during the 2021-2022 school year but are required to adopt and implement by the 2026-2026 school year. ethnic studies standards are integrated into social science standards, including civics and government. In addition, SB 13 Tribal History/Shared History created “Essential Understandings” and lesson plans supporting learning on tribal governments.

SENATE BILL 702

SB 702 will form a Task Force on Social Studies Standards with the intent of identifying where current social science standards can be improved on three areas:

1. Voting rights and how to vote
2. Current and historical social movements; and
3. The roles of local government and tribal governments.

The task force is composed of at least one senator and one member of the House of Representatives as well as seven members from public schools, education organizations, and the Department of Education.

The Task Force must submit a report, and may include recommendations for legislation to a committee related to education no later than September 15, 2022.

SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE BILL

- Include representatives from Tribal Governments or Indian Education in appointed members.
- Include an expert in civics education
- Provide funding of substitute costs for public school teachers.
- Provide child care costs as needed by panel members.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Ventura
Government Relations Director