



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 30, 2022
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Social Studies Supervisors, Social Studies Instructional Coaches and Teachers
From: Mackey Pendergrast, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Legislation Enhancing AAPI Cultural and Education Programs in New Jersey: AAPI-Inclusive Curriculum and the Commission on Asian American Heritage

On January 18, 2022, [Governor Murphy signed legislation](#) that:

- Ensures that the contributions, history, and heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are included in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) for Social Studies in kindergarten through Grade 12 ([P.L.2021, c.416](#)); and
- Establishes the Commission on Asian American Heritage within the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) ([P.L.2021, c.410](#)). The purpose of the Commission on Asian American Heritage is in part to “survey, design, encourage, and promote the implementation of Asian or Asian American cultural and educational programs in this State.” The [Commission on Asian American Heritage](#) will be supported by the NJDOE’s [Office of Commissions](#), which also interfaces with the [New Jersey Amistad Commission](#), the [New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education](#), the [New Jersey Commission on Italian and Italian American Heritage](#), and the [New Jersey Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage](#).

In accordance with P.L.2021, c.416, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are required to select and adopt inclusive instructional materials that portray the cultural diversity of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for implementation in the 2022-2023 school year. LEAs must seek the assistance of the Commission on Asian American Heritage in fulfilling the requirements of this legislation. Educators are encouraged to explore the recently released [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Educational Resources](#) website to better support the inclusion of AAPI history and contributions. The [Sample Activities and Lessons](#) page features numerous AAPI-specific websites that provide educational resources and materials for consideration. Additionally, the NJDOE is planning professional development and training opportunities in the upcoming months to support the implementation of this legislation.

Contact information

For questions regarding these resources, please contact standards@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
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