

What Senate Bill 3 Would Do

Texas has a new law, HB 3979, that censors students and teachers in public schools! During the Texas Legislative Special Session, policymakers are considering Senate Bill 3 that would EXPAND that law, making it harder to #TeachTheTruth in Texas classrooms.

SB 3 would create a civics training program

SB 3 would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to create a “civics training program” for teachers to learn how to comply with the restrictions in the law.

- The projected \$14.6 million for this program would be better spent on creating a research-based, inclusive civics program that is not restricted by the harmful prohibitions in SB 3.

SB 3 would remove requirements to learn about diverse communities

SB 3 would strip most of the current requirements that Texas students learn more about the histories and contributions of Black, Indigenous, Latinx people and women in social studies.

- Students want to be able to learn about their communities, including the diverse people who are a part of the founding and evolution of our country. By stripping the diverse list of people topics from the law, SB 3 dishonestly suggests to Texas students that the stories of communities of color, women and others are not important parts of our collective story.

SB 3 would expand the HB 3979 law to all social studies K-12 courses

SB 3 expands the harmful restrictions in the new law to all social studies courses in kindergarten through 12th grades, including electives and innovative courses.

- The restrictions on classroom discussions about true history and current events, credit and extra credit for student participation in civics organizations, and teacher training would apply to innovative courses and elective courses, including African American Studies and Mexican American Studies.

SB 3 would change restrictions on classroom learning and teacher training

SB 3 could prohibit school leaders from training fellow teachers and staff members on certain topics related to racism, bias and historical facts about the founding of the United States. The bill also prohibits all social studies teachers from making part of their course any concepts that “serve to inculcate.”

- The prohibited topics could include many that are already part of standard diversity, equity and inclusion training in schools, businesses and government entities. SB 3 mischaracterizes and threatens those important trainings by placing restrictions on them.
- “Inculcate” is a confusing standard that could stop some teachers from discussing important topics in their classrooms.

SB 3 would create TEA enforcement power

SB 3 would allow TEA to enforce certain requirements listed in the bill.

- Because SB 3 is vague, it is not clear how TEA will interpret the law and use its authority to enforce it. This could result in sanctions being used against some school districts.