



Texas' Newest Classroom Censorship Bill: SB 3

Senate Bill 3 takes the place of House Bill 3979, which went into effect as law just days ago after passing the legislature this spring. The Texas Education Agency will likely outline guidance for schools soon.

Restricts classroom learning in all K-12 courses	SB 3 expands the harmful restrictions in HB 3979 to all courses in kindergarten through 12 th grades, including electives and innovative courses and African American and Mexican American Studies courses. It does so by prohibiting teachers from discussing certain topics related to racism, bias and historical facts about the founding of the United States and by restricting how teachers discuss important controversial events and issues.
Removes requirements to learn about diverse communities	SB 3 strips 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.
Prohibits students from earning course credit for civic engagement	SB 3 bars students from earning credit for civic engagement in their local, state, and federal governments and through civic activities, with exceptions only for certain internships and career programs.
Prohibits schools from using private funding for important programming	SB 3 prohibits schools from using private funding for important programming on curriculum, training or professional development related to race, racism, and sexism, or diversity, equity, and inclusion.
SB 3 requires schools to give parents login credentials	SB 3 requires login codes for parents to give them access to any learning management systems or online portals that a district or open-enrollment charter uses to disseminate instructional materials to educators.
Creates a civics training program for educator compliance	SB 3 states that the program must be developed by a nine-member advisory board appointed by the Texas Commissioner of Education for teachers and school administrators to learn how to comply with the restrictions in the law.
Restricts teacher training	SB 3 prohibits school employees from training other school employees on certain topics related to racism, bias and historical facts about the founding of the United States.
Creates vague rules about treatment of student conduct	SB 3 limits schools from creating or interpreting rules that punish students for "reasonably discussing" certain topics, though it does not define what type of student speech is reasonable and what type of student speech may be punished.
Creates TEA enforcement power	Creates vague enforcement power for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) by allowing TEA to create rules to ensure school districts across the state are following the requirements in the law.
Clarifies no private right to sue teachers	SB 3 clarifies that it does not create a private cause of action that would allow individuals to sue teachers or other school employees. Though any individual could still rely on SB 3 to complain about school employees with whom they disagree, decisions about employment and violations of laws are left to school districts and charter schools.