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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A3871 (ACS)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
REPRINT(S):	Yes	ABU 6/26/25 ACS
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	Yes Budget
	SENATE:	No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes

NIKITA BIRYUKOV newjerseymonitor.com, 'New law requires lessons on Latino, Hispanic history in NJ schools', *Press of Atlantic City, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 30 Sep 2025
<<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A3744F3C4454300>>

CL/MMcB

§§1,2
C.18A:35-4.49
and 18A:35-4.50
and Note to
C.18A:4-49
and C.18A:7F-46

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 146, *approved September 29, 2025*
Senate Committee Substitute for
Senate, Nos. 2335 and 3096

1 **AN ACT** concerning instruction on Latinos and Hispanics in public
2 schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall adopt New Jersey
9 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic
10 history.

11 b. A board of education shall include instruction on the history and
12 contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in an appropriate place in the
13 curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the
14 school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning
15 Standards in Social Studies. The instruction shall be historically
16 accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and
17 developmentally appropriate.

18 c. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
19 Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant to
20 section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school
21 districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used
22 to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

23
24 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
25 the first full school year following the date of enactment. The
26 standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
27 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
28 as this bill) shall occur concurrent with each update to the New
29 Jersey Student Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of
30 P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46).

31
32
33
34
35 _____
36 Requires school districts to provide instruction on history of
37 Latinos and Hispanics as part of implementation of New Jersey
 Student Learning Standards.

CHAPTER 146

AN ACT concerning instruction on Latinos and Hispanics in public schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:35-4.49 Latino and Hispanic history, required instruction.

1. a. The State Board of Education shall adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic history.

b. A board of education shall include instruction on the history and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies. The instruction shall be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and developmentally appropriate.

c. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

C.18A:35-4.50 Concurrent occurrence, updates to New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the first full school year following the date of enactment. The standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2025, c.146 (C.18A:35-4.49) shall occur concurrent with each update to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46).

Approved September 29, 2025.

SENATE, No. 2335

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/5/2024)

1 **AN ACT** concerning instruction on Latino and Hispanic Americans
2 in public schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

8 1. a. A board of education shall include instruction on the
9 history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in an
10 appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades
11 kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's
12 implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
13 Social Studies and English Language Arts.

b. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

20 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
21 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

23

24 STATEMENT

26 This bill requires a board of education to include instruction on
27 the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in
28 an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades
29 kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's
30 implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
31 Social Studies and English Language Arts. The bill also requires
32 the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
33 Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, to provide school
34 districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be
35 used to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

Current law requires the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and topics concerning and relating to the culture, history, and heritage of people of Latino and Hispanic descent. School boards are to incorporate these guidelines into the curriculum to the extent possible. This bill specifically requires instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in the curriculum as part of the implementation of the learning standards.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2335

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

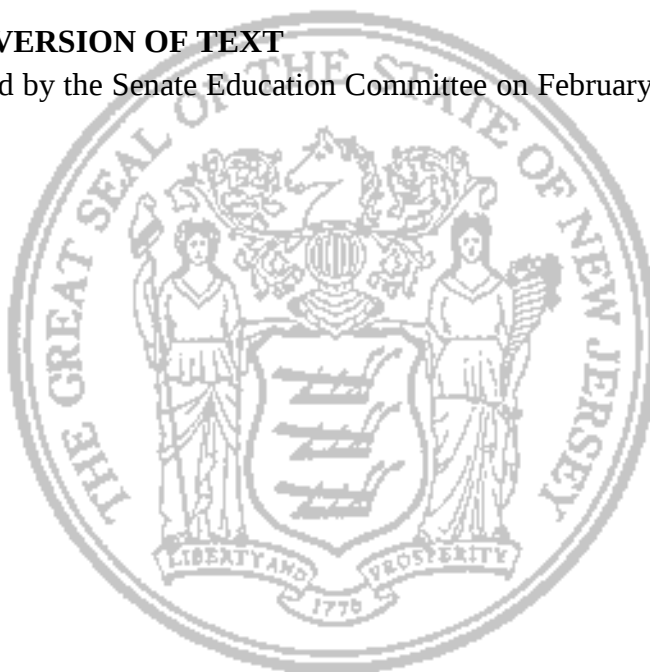
Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on February 15, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning instruction on Latino and Hispanic Americans
2 in public schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. ¹The State Board of Education shall adopt New Jersey
9 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language
10 Arts on Latino and Hispanic American history.

11 b. ¹A board of education shall include instruction on the history and
12 contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in an appropriate
13 place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12
14 as part of the school district's implementation of the New Jersey
15 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language
16 Arts.

17 ¹**[b.] c.**¹ The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
18 the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant
19 to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school
20 districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used
21 to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

22
23 2. This act shall take effect immediately ¹**[and shall first apply to**
24 **the first full school year following the date of enactment]**¹.¹The
25 standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section
26 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
27 shall occur concurrent with each update to the New Jersey Student
28 Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260
29 (C.18A:7F-46).¹

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted February 15, 2024.

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, Nos. 2335 and 3096

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED OCTOBER 7, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex and Hudson)
Senator BRIAN P. STACK
District 33 (Hudson)
Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT
District 31 (Hudson)
Assemblyman JULIO MARENCO
District 33 (Hudson)
Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN
District 29 (Essex and Hudson)
Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES
District 34 (Essex)
Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO
District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Pou, Moriarty, Diegnan, McKeon, Timberlake, Assemblywomen McCoy, Hall, Bagolie, Assemblyman Rodriguez, Assemblywomen Ramirez, Collazos-Gill, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Sampson, Schaer, Assemblywoman Carter and Assemblyman Bailey

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on history of Latinos and Hispanics as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning instruction on Latinos and Hispanics in public
2 schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall adopt New Jersey
9 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic
10 history.

11 b. A board of education shall include instruction on the history and
12 contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in an appropriate place in the
13 curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the
14 school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning
15 Standards in Social Studies. The instruction shall be historically
16 accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and
17 developmentally appropriate.

18 c. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
19 Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant to
20 section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school
21 districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used
22 to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

23
24 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
25 the first full school year following the date of enactment. The
26 standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section
27 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
28 shall occur concurrent with each update to the New Jersey Student
29 Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260
30 (C.18A:7F-46).

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE, Nos. 2335 and 3096

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 2335 and 3096.

This bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic history.

The bill also requires a board of education to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the NJSLS in Social Studies. The instruction is to be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and developmentally appropriate.

The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, is to provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement. The bill also specifies that the standards adopted pursuant to the provisions of the bill are to occur concurrent with each update to the NJSLS. The NJSLS are reviewed and revised every five years, and the next review of the NJSLS for Social Studies is to occur in 2025.

A 2023 report released by Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and UnidosUS evaluating how Latinos are portrayed in widely used United States history textbooks found that 87 percent of key topics in Latino history were either not covered in the evaluated textbooks, or mentioned in five or fewer sentences.

As reported by the committee, the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 2335 and 3096 is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3871, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2335

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2335 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill directs the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language Arts on Latino and Hispanic American history. The amended bill also requires a board of education to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language Arts. The amended bill further requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, to provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

Current law requires the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and topics concerning and relating to the culture, history, and heritage of people of Latino and Hispanic descent. School boards are to incorporate these guidelines into the curriculum to the extent possible. This bill specifically requires instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in the curriculum as part of the implementation of the learning standards.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- require the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language Arts on Latino and Hispanic American history; and
- require the State Board of Education to readopt applicable standards with each update to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, Nos. 2335 and 3096**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 7, 2024

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 2335 and 3096.

This committee substitute requires the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic history.

The committee substitute also requires a board of education to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the NJSLS in Social Studies. The instruction is to be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and developmentally appropriate.

The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, is to provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement. The committee substitute also specifies that the standards adopted pursuant to the provisions of the bill are to occur concurrent with each update to the NJSLS. The NJSLS are reviewed and revised every five years, and the next review of the NJSLS for Social Studies is to occur in 2025.

A 2023 report released by Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and UnidosUS evaluating how Latinos are portrayed in widely used United States history textbooks found that 87 percent of key topics in Latino history were either not covered in the evaluated textbooks, or mentioned in five or fewer sentences.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3871

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JULIO MARENCO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen McCoy, Hall, Bagolie, Assemblyman Rodriguez,

Assemblywomen Ramirez, Collazos-Gill and Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning instruction on Latino and Hispanic Americans
2 in public schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall adopt New Jersey
9 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language
10 Arts on Latino and Hispanic American history.

11 b. A board of education shall include instruction on the history
12 and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in an appropriate
13 place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12
14 as part of the school district's implementation of the New Jersey
15 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language
16 Arts.

17 c. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
18 Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant to
19 section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school
20 districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used
21 to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

22
23 2. This act shall take effect immediately. The standards adopted
24 by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c.
25 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall occur
26 concurrent with each update to the New Jersey Student Learning
27 Standards required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260
28 (C.18A:7F-46).

29
30
31 STATEMENT

32
33 This bill directs the State Board of Education to adopt New
34 Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English
35 Language Arts on Latino and Hispanic American history. The bill
36 also requires a board of education to include instruction on the
37 history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in an
38 appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades
39 kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's
40 implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
41 Social Studies and English Language Arts. The bill further requires
42 the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
43 Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, to provide school
44 districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be
45 used to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

46 Current law requires the Commission on Latino and Hispanic
47 Heritage, in consultation with the Department of Education, to
48 develop curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and

1 topics concerning and relating to the culture, history, and heritage
2 of people of Latino and Hispanic descent. School boards are to
3 incorporate these guidelines into the curriculum to the extent
4 possible. This bill specifically requires instruction on the history
5 and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in the
6 curriculum as part of the implementation of the learning standards.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 3871

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED JUNE 26, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JULIO MARENCO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman CARMEN THERESA MORALES

District 34 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen McCoy, Hall, Bagolie, Assemblyman Rodriguez,

Assemblywomen Ramirez, Collazos-Gill, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen

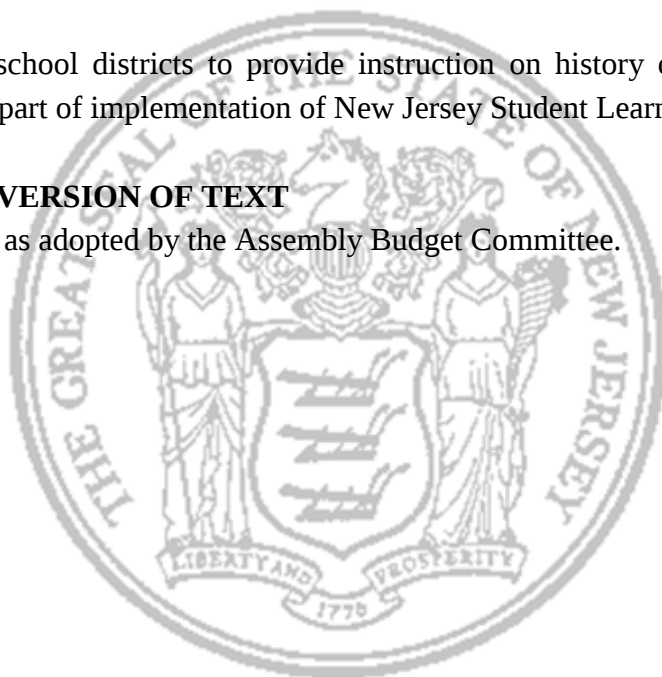
Sampson, Schaer, Assemblywoman Carter and Assemblyman Bailey

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on history of Latinos and Hispanics as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Budget Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 **AN ACT** concerning instruction on Latinos and Hispanics in public
2 schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall adopt New Jersey
9 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic
10 history.

11 b. A board of education shall include instruction on the history and
12 contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in an appropriate place in the
13 curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the
14 school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning
15 Standards in Social Studies. The instruction shall be historically
16 accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and
17 developmentally appropriate.

18 c. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
19 Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant to
20 section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school
21 districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used
22 to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

23
24 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
25 the first full school year following the date of enactment. The
26 standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section
27 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
28 shall occur concurrent with each update to the New Jersey Student
29 Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260
30 (C.18A:7F-46).

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

ASSEMBLY, No. 3871

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3871.

This committee substitute requires the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in Social Studies on Latino and Hispanic history.

The committee substitute also requires a board of education to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the NJSLS in Social Studies. The instruction is to be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and developmentally appropriate.

The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, is to provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement. The committee substitute also specifies that the standards adopted pursuant to the provisions of the bill are to occur concurrent with each update to the NJSLS. The NJSLS are reviewed and revised every five years, and the next review of the NJSLS for Social Studies is to occur in 2025.

A 2023 report released by Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and UnidosUS evaluating how Latinos are portrayed in widely used United States history textbooks found that 87 percent of key topics in Latino history were either not covered in the evaluated textbooks, or mentioned in five or fewer sentences.

As reported by the committee, the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 3871 is identical to the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 2335 and 3069, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill has not been certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Require Classroom Instruction on Latino and Hispanic History

Posted on - 09/29/2025

PRINCETON – While observing Hispanic Heritage Month at Drumthwacket, Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation requiring the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in Social Studies, ensuring that the rich contributions, history, and heritage of Latino and Hispanic people are taught in K-12 schools. These new instructional requirements align with other efforts by the Murphy Administration to ensure that New Jersey's students receive a holistic education that reflects the strength and diversity of the Garden State.

Under the bill, a board of education is required to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latinos and Hispanics in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the NJSLS in Social Studies. The instruction is to be historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, and developmentally appropriate.

"Through today's bill signing, we are cementing the legacy of New Jersey's Latino and Hispanic communities," **said Governor Phil Murphy**. "I am especially proud to sign this bill during Hispanic Heritage Month, ensuring that the contributions of our Hispanic and Latino communities are taught in our nation-leading public education system. By teaching students about their neighbors, we are raising a more informed next generation of future leaders in the Garden State."

"New Jersey's learning standards require instruction that reflects the diversity of our communities and our cultural heritage," **said New Jersey Department of Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer**. "Codifying Hispanic and Latino history instruction into law is an important extension of that commitment. The Department will work in partnership with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage to provide districts with resources that support effective implementation of this requirement, ensuring that students receive a comprehensive understanding of our collective history."

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education, in collaboration with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, will provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the updated instructional requirements.

Prime sponsors of the legislation ([S2335/3096/A3871 \(https://njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/S2335\)](https://njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/S2335)) include Senators M. Teresa Ruiz, Brian Stack, and Angela McKnight, along with Assemblymembers Julio Marengo, Eliana Pintor Marin, Carmen Theresa Morales, and Annette Quijano.

"A study by Johns Hopkins University found that 87% of 'key topics in Latino history' are either left out of textbooks entirely or reduced to fewer than five sentences, leaving a profound gap in the story of America. Latinos have been at the forefront of shaping this country since its earliest days — fighting in every war, marching for civil rights, and using our talents to build businesses and drive the economy forward. Our children deserve to see that history reflected accurately and Latinos represented in exceptional spaces," **said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz**. "This legislation will diversify our curriculum and shine a light on the contributions of Latinos — the artists, scientists, athletes, public servants, and countless others — who have left an indelible mark on our nation."

"Nearly one-quarter of New Jerseyans identify as Hispanic or Latino, as does a large portion of my district," **said Senator Brian Stack**. "It is important for students to see themselves and the diverse community around them reflected in their school's curriculum. Providing classroom instruction on Latino and Hispanic American history will only enrich New Jersey's public schools even further."

"Crafting a diverse curriculum in New Jersey public schools is imperative if we wish to achieve a more inclusive future," **said Senator Angela McKnight**. "The contributions of Hispanics and Latinos to our state and country are great and deserve to be recognized in every classroom. I thank Governor Murphy for his commitment to ensuring our children learn the rich history of all the beautiful people, cultures, and stories that surround us."

"Representation matters, especially for children in their formative years, when school is often the first place they look for role models and reflections of themselves," **said Assemblyman Julio Marengo**. "By integrating Latino and Hispanic American history into the core curriculum, we acknowledge the ever-evolving diversity of America and affirm the need for an education system that is not only equitable in knowledge but also instills pride in all of its students. These stories are New Jersey's stories, and ensuring our classrooms reflect the communities we serve is essential."

"A3871 will help Latino and Hispanic children see themselves reflected in the history they learn and understand how leaders from their communities have shaped this country," **said Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor Marin**.

"Representation matters, and as New Jersey's Latino population continues to grow, it's important that our students learn a history that reflects the diverse voices and contributions that make up our state and nation. In my district, this growth is part of our daily life, and I'm proud to support a bill that celebrates Latino culture and strengthens the education of our children."

"As an educator, I know that equity in the classroom begins with the narratives we choose to tell and the voices we share. For too long, Latino and Hispanic American history has been left on the margins, sometimes not even making it to the books we read or history we learn," **said Assemblywoman Carmen Morales**. "This bill closes that gap by making the contributions of these culturally rich but underrepresented communities part of the fundamental history lessons every New Jersey student receives."

"The contributions of Latino and Hispanic communities are intricately woven into the fabric of New Jersey's history, but are too often underrepresented in the classroom. I am proud to have sponsored this bill, which celebrates equity and inclusion, while deepening students' understanding of the rich story of our state," **said Assemblywoman Annette Quijano**. "Every student should see their heritage reflected in what they learn, to feel proud of their roots and to see the contributions and achievements of those who paved the way for them. With this legislation, we are honoring the legacy of countless Latinos and Hispanics who have helped shape our nation."

"LULAC proudly supports Senate Bill 2335 because every student deserves to see the contributions of Latinos and Hispanics reflected in their education," **said Roman Palomares, LULAC National President and Chairman of the**

Board. "This bill ensures pride, respect, and representation are part of New Jersey's classrooms and America's future."

"At a time when there are ongoing efforts to silence and erase our community's history, this legislation is a step in the right direction," **said Anita Teekah, Chief of Advocacy, LatinoJustice PRLDEF.** "By including Latino history in the New Jersey K-12, we are making sure every student sees a fuller picture of our history, contributions, and recognizes our communities as an essential part of our shared story."

"At HACE, our mission is to break barriers and create pathways for Latino leadership. The signing of S2335 extends that vision into New Jersey classrooms, ensuring Latino and Hispanic history is recognized as a vital part of America's story," **said Patricia Mota, President and CEO, Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE).** "When students see their heritage reflected in education, it empowers them to break barriers of their own and rise as the leaders of tomorrow."

"Latinos have always been central to the American story, yet their contributions are too often left out of classrooms," **said UnidosUS President and CEO Janet Murguía.** "Integrating Latino history into New Jersey's state educational standards is a powerful step toward telling a more accurate account of our shared history."

"We commend this move to broaden New Jersey's curriculum for all students," **said NJEA President Steve Beatty.** "Latino and Hispanic history is an inextricable part of American history. Understanding that history is an important part of understanding who we are as a nation. As a social studies teacher myself, I know how important it is to be intentional about introducing students to a broader range of voices, experiences, and perspectives. This new law will help us do that more effectively."

"We applaud Gov. Murphy for passing into law a bill that ensures New Jersey's students will receive a well-rounded education that reflects the full history of our diverse population. It's only fitting for this long-overdue addition to our state's learning standards to become official during Hispanic Heritage Month," **said AFTNJ President Jennifer S. Higgins.**

"The NJSBA proudly recognizes the invaluable contributions of our Hispanic community. Hispanic students, educators, administrators, staff, and community members enrich our schools with their knowledge, culture, and spirit. Many also serve as members of local boards of education, further strengthening diversity and representation in our school environments," **said Dr. Timothy Purnell, NJSBA executive director and CEO.** "Hispanic Heritage Month is a meaningful opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the history, traditions, and achievements that continue to shape and inspire our communities."

"Now more than ever, we need to teach our students about the important and diverse communities within our state that have contributed to our history, our priorities, and our successes as a society and nation. For this reason, the statewide membership of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA) applauds today's signing of S2335, which will incorporate instruction on the history of Latinos and Hispanics as part of the implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards," **said Karen Bingert, Executive Director of the NJ Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA).** "School leaders across New Jersey look forward to working with their staffs, the NJ Department of Education, and the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage to bring these important cultural histories to life in our classrooms."

"Vibrant and varied, Hispanic culture has shaped New Jersey's communities and become integral to our collective sense of community," **said Betsy Ginsburg, Executive Director, Garden State Coalition of Schools.** "We celebrate this bill, which brings Hispanic heritage into focus in our schools."

"This legislation marks a historic step forward in ensuring that Latino students see themselves reflected in the stories told in our classrooms. Teaching Latino history not only affirms the identity and contributions of our communities but also enriches the education of every student in New Jersey," **said Dr. Jesselly de La Cruz, Executive Director, Latino Action Network Foundation.** "We applaud the legislature and Governor Murphy for recognizing that Latino history is American history."

"I am grateful to live in a state that honors its cultural diversity and recognizes the importance of including everyone in its history. Latinos have contributed greatly to the culture, economy and history and this legislation seeks to acknowledge those contributions," **said Frank Argote-Freyre, Chair of the Latino Action Network Foundation.** "This good news at a time when ethnic and racial diversity is under attack at the national level."

"I am thrilled that this bill will be signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy. New Jersey has long been a place of refuge for our Latine families, but we haven't always been given the space to be fully seen. This important step ensures Latino youth across our state can finally see themselves reflected in the classroom, included and celebrated. Latine history is not a side note, it is an integral part of New Jersey, of our nation, and of the world," **said Natalie Hernandez, Garden State Equality Project Manager and Trainer.** "The history of my people was not something I was taught in school growing up here, and I'm proud that today's students will have that opportunity. When classrooms include Latine stories, just like LGBTQ+ inclusive lessons and resources, students get the full picture of our shared history. That representation not only affirms identity, it creates safer schools, reduces bullying, and helps raise future leaders who are compassionate, culturally competent, and unafraid to celebrate diversity in all its forms."

"Helen Zia said 'racism begins with the idea that some people are less human than others.' It is so important to intervene as early as possible to teach kids how to see the full humanness of those who are 'other,' to have knowledge of and comfort in their own identity, and to know our full history as a nation," **said Kani Ilangovan, MD, Board Member of The E Pluribus Unum Project.** "As we create a more inclusive curriculum, children will be more prepared for the diverse society in which we live, children will see and value one another more and appreciate one another despite our differences of race, religion, class and sexual orientation, and understand how we all built this country together. Education is the most effective tool we have against hate."

These topics will be incorporated in the next required review of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which is currently underway. School districts will implement the new instruction requirement beginning in the 2026–2027 school year.

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Bill to Introduce Latino and Hispanic History into School Curriculum Signed into Law

Marenco, Pintor Marin, Morales, Quijano legislation will ensure that all public schools provide history lessons that include Latino and Hispanic American material

(TRENTON, NJ) – As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, New Jersey has taken a significant step in education equity with the signing of bill **A3871/S2335** into law. Sponsored by Assemblyman **Julio Marenco**, the legislation ensures that the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans is acknowledged and reflected in the public school curriculum. Assemblywomen **Eliana Pintor Marin**, **Carmen Morales** and **Annette Quijano** also sponsored the bill.



The bill requires the New Jersey State Board of Education to adopt Student Learning Standards that include Latino and Hispanic history. Beginning as early as the next school year, students in grades K–12 will receive instruction that is historically accurate, culturally relevant, community-based, contemporary, and developmentally appropriate.

“Representation matters, especially for children in their formative years, when school is often the first place they look for role models and reflections of themselves,” **said Assemblyman Marenco (D-Hudson)**. “By integrating Latino and Hispanic American history into the core curriculum, we acknowledge the ever-evolving diversity of America and affirm the need for an education system that is not only equitable in knowledge but also instills pride in all of its students. These stories are New Jersey’s stories, and ensuring our classrooms reflect the communities we serve is essential.”

Although nearly **22%** of New Jersey’s population is Hispanic or Latino, the current state curriculum does not require instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans. This legislation will ensure that classrooms reflect the experiences and impact of one-fifth of the state’s population—broadening all students’ understanding of history and providing Latino and Hispanic students with a deeper connection to those who helped shape their communities.

“A3871 will help Latino and Hispanic children see themselves reflected in the history they learn and understand how leaders from their communities have shaped this country,” **said Assemblywoman Pintor Marin (D-Essex, Hudson)**. “Representation matters, and as New Jersey’s Latino population continues to grow, it’s important that our students learn a history that reflects the diverse voices and contributions that make up our state and nation. In my district, this growth is part of our daily life, and I’m proud to support a bill that celebrates Latino culture and strengthens the education of our children.”

“As an educator, I know that equity in the classroom begins with the narratives we choose to tell and the voices we share. For too long, Latino and Hispanic American history has been left on the margins, sometimes not even making it to the books we read or history we learn,” **said Assemblywoman Morales (D-Essex)**. “This bill closes that gap by making the contributions of these culturally rich but underrepresented communities part of the fundamental history lessons every New Jersey student receives.”

“The contributions of Latino and Hispanic communities are intricately woven into the fabric of New Jersey’s history, but are too often underrepresented in the classroom. I am proud to have sponsored this bill, which celebrates equity and inclusion, while deepening students’ understanding of the rich story of our state,” **said Assemblywoman Quijano (D-Union)**. “Every student should see their heritage reflected in what they learn, to feel proud of their roots and to see the contributions and achievements of those who paved the way for them. With this legislation, we are honoring the legacy of countless Latinos and Hispanics who have helped shape our nation.”

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Ley para Introducir la Historia Latina e Hispana en el Plan de Estudios Escolares Promulgada

Press Release

Posted on September 30, 2025

Legislación patrocinada por Marengo, Pintor Marín, Morales y Quijano garantizará que todas las escuelas públicas impartan clases de historia que incluyan material sobre los latinos y los hispanoamericanos.

(TRENTON, NJ) – Mientras celebramos el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, Nueva Jersey ha dado un paso significativo en la equidad educativa con la firma del proyecto de ley A3871/S2335. Patrocinada por el Asambleísta **Julio Marengo**, la legislación garantiza que la historia y las contribuciones de los latinos e hispanoamericanos sean reconocidos y reflejados en el plan de estudios de las escuelas públicas. Las Asambleístas **Eliana Pintor Marín**, **Carmen Morales** and **Annette Quijano** también patrocinaron el proyecto de ley.

El proyecto de ley exige que la Junta de Educación del Estado de Nueva Jersey adopte Estándares de Aprendizaje Estudiantil que incluyan la historia latina e hispana. A partir del próximo año escolar, los estudiantes de K-12 recibirán material histórico que sea históricamente preciso, culturalmente relevante, basado en la comunidad, contemporáneo y apropiado para su desarrollo.

“La representación es importante, especialmente para los niños que se encuentran en sus años formativos, cuando la escuela suele ser el primer lugar donde buscan modelos a seguir y que reflejen su identidad”, **dijo el Asambleísta Marengo (D-Hudson)**. “Al integrar la historia latina e hispanoamericana en el plan de estudios básico, reconocemos la diversidad que está en constante evolución en los Estados Unidos y afirmamos la necesidad de un sistema educativo que no solo sea equitativo en cuanto al conocimiento, sino que también inculque orgullo en todos sus estudiantes. Estas historias son las historias de Nueva Jersey, y es esencial garantizar que nuestros salones de clase reflejen las comunidades a las que servimos”.

Aunque casi el **22%** de la población de Nueva Jersey es hispana o latina, el plan de estudios estatal de hoy no exige enseñar la historia y las contribuciones de los latinos y hispanos estadounidenses. Esta ley va a asegurar que los salones de clase reflejen las experiencias y el impacto de una quinta parte de la población del estado, ampliando la comprensión de la historia de todos los estudiantes y dándoles a los estudiantes latinos e hispanos una conexión más profunda con quienes ayudaron a formar sus comunidades.

“La ley A3871 ayudará a los niños latinos e hispanos a verse reflejados en la historia que aprenden y a comprender cómo los líderes de sus comunidades han dado forma a este país”, **dijo la Asambleísta Pintor Marin (D-Essex, Hudson)**. “La representación es importante, y a medida que la población latina de Nueva Jersey sigue creciendo, es importante que nuestros estudiantes aprendan una historia que refleje las diversas voces y contribuciones que configuran nuestro estado y nuestra nación. En mi distrito, este crecimiento forma parte de nuestra vida cotidiana, y me enorgullece apoyar un proyecto de ley que celebra la cultura latina y refuerza la educación de nuestros hijos”.

“Como educadora, sé que la equidad en los salones de clase comienza con las historias que elegimos contar y las voces que compartimos. Por demasiado tiempo, la historia de los latinos y los hispanoamericanos ha sido marginada, a veces ni siquiera llegando a los libros que leemos o la historia que aprendemos”, **dijo la Asambleísta Morales (D-Essex)**. “Este proyecto de ley cierra esa brecha al incorporar las contribuciones de estas comunidades culturalmente ricas pero poco representadas en las lecciones fundamentales de historia que reciben todos los estudiantes de Nueva Jersey”.

“Las contribuciones de las comunidades latinas e hispanas están íntimamente entrelazadas en el tejido de la historia de Nueva Jersey, pero con demasiada frecuencia se encuentran poco representadas en los salones de clase. Me enorgullece haber patrocinado este proyecto de ley, que celebra la equidad y la inclusión, al tiempo que profundiza la comprensión de los estudiantes sobre la rica historia de nuestro estado”, **dijo la Asambleísta Quijano (D-Union)**. “Todos los estudiantes deberían de ver su herencia reflejada en lo que aprenden, para sentirse orgullosos de sus raíces y ver las contribuciones y logros de quienes les marcaron el camino. Con esta ley, estamos honrando el legado de innumerables latinos e hispanos que han ayudado a dar forma a nuestra nación”.