

MEMORANDUM

To: Public School Superintendents and Principals, Charter School Principals, and Nonpublic School Principals

From: Amanda McCammon, Director of PK-16

Date: May 19, 2017

Re: Senate Enrolled Act 337, Ethnic Studies and Racial Groups (IC 20-30-5-7)
Senate Enrolled Act 29, Indiana Studies (IC 20-30-5-22)

Background:

The Indiana General Assembly recently passed legislation requiring all school corporations to offer Ethnic Studies and Indiana Studies as a (1) semester elective course in its high school curriculum at least once every school year. The Ethnic Studies and Racial Groups bill (SEA 337) was introduced to provide opportunities to broaden students' perspectives concerning lifestyles and cultural patterns of ethnic and racial groups in the United States. The Indiana Studies bill (SEA 29) was introduced to continue the momentum of Indiana's Bicentennial and to stress the importance of Indiana's political, economic, and cultural history.

Guidance:

Beginning after July 1, 2017, all school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools shall "offer the study of ethnic studies and racial groups as a (1) semester elective course in its high school curriculum at least once every school year. The course may be offered by the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school through a course access program administered by the department." (IC 20-30-5-7) Schools may use the Ethnic Studies course (1516) to meet this obligation.

Beginning after July 1, 2018, all school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools shall "offer the study of Indiana Studies as a (1) semester elective course in its high school curriculum at least once every school year. The course may be offered by the school corporation, charter school, or accredited nonpublic school through a course access program administered by the department." (IC 20-30-5-22) Schools may use the Indiana Studies course (1518) to meet this obligation.

SEA 337

ETHNIC STUDIES*1516 (ETH STUDIES)*

Ethnic Studies provides opportunities to broaden students' perspectives concerning lifestyles and cultural patterns of ethnic groups in the United States. This course will either focus on a particular ethnic group or groups, or use a comparative approach to the study of patterns of cultural development, immigration, and assimilation, as well as the contributions of specific ethnic or cultural groups. The course may also include analysis of the political impact of ethnic diversity in the United States.

- Recommended Grade Level: none
- Recommended Prerequisites: none
- Credits: 1 semester course, 1 credit
- Counts as an Elective for all diplomas

SEA 29

INDIANA STUDIES*1518 (IN STUDIES)*

Indiana Studies is an integrated course that compares and contrasts state and national developments in the areas of politics, economics, history, and culture. The course uses Indiana history as a basis for understanding current policies, practices, and state legislative procedures. It also includes the study of state and national constitutions from a historical perspective and as a current foundation of government. Examination of individual leaders and their roles in a democratic society will be included and student will examine the participation of citizens in the political process. Selections from Indiana arts and literature may also be analyzed for insights into historical events and cultural expressions.

- Recommended Grade Level: none
- Recommended Prerequisites: none
- Credits: 1 semester course, 1 credit per semester
- Counts as an Elective for all diplomas

If you have any questions, please contact Robin LeClaire, Director of School Improvement, at (317) 232-0524 or rleclaire@doe.in.gov.