

The Civics Alliance

National Association of Scholars

Rescue Public K-12 Civics Education

Americans Must Defund Action Civics and Critical Race Theory

Radical activists seek to transform all education into political activism to advance “social justice.”^[1] Their favored pedagogy is “service-learning,” and they particularly focus on using civics education as a Trojan horse for their revolutionary project, by turning civics education, under names such as *action civics*, *new civics*, *civic engagement*, *project-based civics*, and *global civics*, into radical propaganda and vocational training for social justice activism.^[2] Revolutionary *action civics* has infiltrated all levels of education, and radical activists now threaten to impose it by state legislation.^[3]

Legislation to bar action civics from public K-12 civics classrooms is urgently needed.

Model Legislation: The Partisanship Out of Civics Act

The Partisanship Out of Civics Act (POCA),^[4] drafted by Stanley Kurtz, is essential to rescue public K-12 civics education from its takeover by radical activists. The main idea of the *Act* is to prevent teachers from giving credit to service-learning or any other sort of public policy advocacy in history, government, civics, or social studies. The *Act* also protects teachers from being *required* to discuss current events, to advance one-sided discussion of current events, to affirm or undergo trainings using ideas such as *systemic racism* or *gender fluidity*, or to affirm or undergo trainings that use the bigoted race and sex stereotyping inherent in Critical Race Theory. Finally, the *Act* calls for a minimum number of class-years’ instruction in United States history and government.

POCA Text

WHEREAS, true civic education is not political action itself but rather preparation for, and prerequisite to, mature political life; and

WHEREAS, respect for the liberties of students and teachers, the views of a politically diverse citizenry, and the tradition of institutional neutrality that flows from these, means that political activism has no place in formal education; and

WHEREAS, the free speech, conscience, and religious liberty rights of teachers ought to be respected; and

WHEREAS, the ability of the citizens of the state of [state name] and its school districts to control K-12 curriculum content in courses on history, civics, social studies, and similar topics through their elected representatives should not be ceded to private entities; and

WHEREAS, concepts that impute fault, blame, a tendency to oppress others, or the need to feel guilt or anguish to persons solely because of their race or sex violate the premises of individual rights, equal opportunity, and individual merit underpinning our constitutional republic, and therefore have no place in training for teachers, administrators, or other employees of the public educational system of [state name]; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION A:

(1) The following is required for graduation from [state name] high school:

(a) Three years in history, government, economics, and geography [or social studies]. These years must include at least 1 year of U.S. history and at least 1 half-year term of U.S. government.

SECTION B:

(1) No teacher of history, civics, U.S. government and politics, social studies, or similar subject areas, whether for regular credit or advanced placement credit, shall be compelled by a policy of any state agency, school district, or school administration to discuss current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs.

(2) It shall be the policy of this state that teachers who choose to discuss current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs shall, to the best of their ability, strive to explore such issues from diverse and contending perspectives.

(3) In any course on history, civics, U.S. government and politics, social studies, or similar subject areas, whether for regular credit or advanced placement credit, no school shall require, make part of such course, or award course grading or credit to, student work for, affiliation with, or service learning in association with, any organization engaged in lobbying for legislation at the local, state or federal level, or in social or public policy advocacy.

(4) In any course on history, civics, U.S. government and politics, social studies, or similar subject areas, whether for regular credit or advanced placement credit, no school shall require, make part of such course, or award course grading or credit to, lobbying for legislation at the local, state or federal level, or any practicum, or like activity, involving social or public policy advocacy.

(5) No private funding shall be accepted by state agencies or school districts for curriculum development, purchase or choice of curricular materials, teacher training, professional development, or continuing teacher education pertaining to courses on history, civics, U.S. government and politics, social studies, or similar subject areas, whether for regular credit or advanced placement credit.

(6) No teacher shall be compelled by a policy of any state agency, school district, or school administration to affirm a belief in the so-called systemic nature of racism, or like ideas, or in the so-called multiplicity or fluidity of gender identities, or like ideas, against his or her sincerely held religious or philosophical convictions.

(7) No state agency, school district, or school shall teach, instruct, or train any administrator, teacher, staff member, or employee to adopt or believe any of the following concepts: (a) one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; (b) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously; (c) an individual should be discriminated

against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race; (d) members of one race cannot or should not attempt to treat others without respect to race; (e) an individual's moral standing or worth is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex; (f) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex; (g) an individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex; (h) meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by members of a particular race to oppress members of another race; (i) fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex, or to members of a race or sex because of their race or sex.

(8) No teacher, administrator, or other employee in any state agency, school district, open-enrollment charter school, or school administration shall approve for use, make use of, or carry out, standards, curricula, lesson plans, textbooks, instructional materials, or instructional practices that serve to inculcate the following concepts: (a) one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; (b) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously; (c) an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race; (d) members of one race cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race; (e) an individual's moral standing or worth is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex; (f) an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex; (g) any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex; (h) meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by a members of a particular race to oppress members of another race; (i) that the advent of slavery in the territory that is now the United States constituted the true founding of the United States; or (j) that, with respect to their relationship to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to, the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality.

SECTION C:

(1) If any provision of this chapter, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this chapter and the application of its provisions to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

DEFINITIONS

1) "School" means K-12 public school.

POCA Bills Introduced

South Carolina: House Bill 4392: Partisanship Out of Civics Act.

Texas: House Bill 3979 and Senate Bill 2202: Relating to civics instruction public school students and instruction policies in public schools. 2021-2022, 87th Legislature.

Contact Information

David Randall, Project Director, The Civics Alliance; Director of Research, National Association of Scholars; randall@nas.org.

[1] David Randall, *[Social Justice Education in America](#)* (National Association of Scholars, 2019).

[2] David Randall, *[Making Citizens How American Universities Teach Civics](#)* (National Association of Scholars, 2017); Stanley Kurtz, “[“Action Civics’ Replaces Citizenship with Partisanship,”](#) *The American Mind*, January 26, 2021; Thomas K. Lindsay and Lucy Meckler, *[“Action Civics,” “New Civics,” “Civic Engagement,” and “Project-Based Civics”: Advances in Civic Education?”](#)* (Texas Public Policy Foundation, 2020).

[3] Stanley Kurtz, *[“Ultra-Woke Illinois Mandates Are Top Threat to U.S. Education.”](#)* *The National Review*, January 19, 2021.

[4] Stanley Kurtz, *[“The Partisanship Out of Civics Act.”](#)* *National Association of Scholars*, February 15, 2021.