

Subject Ethnic Studies
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Overview

This bill defines “ethnic studies,” requires ethnic studies standards to be included in social studies standards, and requires a student to complete an ethnic studies course to graduate from high school.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Required academic standards. [Required academic standards] Requires state social studies standards to include ethnic studies. Effective for the 2027-2028 school year and later.
2	Graduation requirements. [Credits] Requires students to complete an ethnic studies course for credit to graduate from high school. Effective for students beginning grade 9 in the 2025-2026 school year and later.
3	Credit equivalencies. [Credits] Allows a student to use an ethnic studies credit to fulfill a social studies, language arts, science, arts, or elective credit if the credit meets the applicable academic standards or other requirements.
4	Ethnic studies. Subd. 1. Definition. Defines “ethnic studies.” Subd. 2. Requirements. Requires a student to complete a semester-long ethnic studies course to graduate from high school. Requires a district or charter school to offer an ethnic studies course without increasing the number of courses required for graduation. Requires a district or charter school to provide ethnic studies instruction in elementary and middle schools in accordance with state

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academic standards by the 2027-2028 school year. Allows an ethnic studies course to focus on a particular group of national or ethnic origin.

Subd. 3. Rulemaking. Requires the commissioner to adopt rules for statewide academic standards for ethnic studies curriculum for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Subd. 4. School needs assessment. Requires a district or charter school to conduct an ethnic studies needs assessment, and annually evaluate the implementation of ethnic studies instruction. Requires a district or charter school to report to the commissioner on plans to modify implementation based on the annual evaluation.

Subd. 5. Department of Education. Requires the department to hire dedicated ethnic studies staff to fulfill specified duties, including monitoring implementation of ethnic studies courses. Requires the department to review and revise the ethnic studies requirements every 10 years.

Subd. 6. Model curriculum. Requires the Department of Education to support school districts and charter schools in using the model curriculum identified by the ethnic studies working group and materials developed by members of the community that are the subject of the course. Provides requirements for model curriculum.

5 **Ethnic Studies Working Group.**

Establishes a working group to advise the commissioner on ethnic studies standards. Requires the working group to develop ethnic studies standards, recommend professional learning requirements, recommend resources and materials to implement ethnic studies standards, and identify or develop model ethnic studies curricula. Requires the commissioner to adopt the working group standards using the expedited rulemaking process.

6 **Appropriations.**

Appropriates money for the working group, ethnic studies implementation by the department, community consultation, and ethnic studies school grants.



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