

**As Introduced**

**130th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
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**S. B. No. 96**

**Senator LaRose**

**Cosponsors: Senators Cafaro, Hite, Lehner**

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**A B I L L**

To amend section 3313.603 of the Revised Code to 1  
require one unit of world history in the high 2  
school social studies curriculum. 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3313.603 of the Revised Code be 4  
amended to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 3313.603.** (A) As used in this section: 6

(1) "One unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of 7  
course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, "one 8  
unit" means a minimum of one hundred fifty hours of course 9  
instruction. 10

(2) "One-half unit" means a minimum of sixty hours of course 11  
instruction, except that for physical education courses, "one-half 12  
unit" means a minimum of one hundred twenty hours of course 13  
instruction. 14

(B) Beginning September 15, 2001, except as required in 15  
division (C) of this section and division (C) of section 3313.614 16  
of the Revised Code, the requirements for graduation from every 17  
high school shall include twenty units earned in grades nine 18

through twelve and shall be distributed as follows:	19
(1) English language arts, four units;	20
(2) Health, one-half unit;	21
(3) Mathematics, three units;	22
(4) Physical education, one-half unit;	23
(5) Science, two units until September 15, 2003, and three	24
units thereafter, which at all times shall include both of the	25
following:	26
(a) Biological sciences, one unit;	27
(b) Physical sciences, one unit.	28
(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply with	29
division (M) of this section and shall include both of the	30
following:	31
(a) American history, one-half unit;	32
(b) American government, one-half unit.	33
(7) Social studies, two units.	34
<u>Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first</u>	35
<u>time on or after the first day of July that next succeeds the</u>	36
<u>effective date of this amendment, the two units of instruction</u>	37
<u>prescribed by division (B)(7) of this section shall include at</u>	38
<u>least one unit of instruction in the history of one or more</u>	39
<u>cultures from around the world other than that of the United</u>	40
<u>States.</u>	41
(8) Elective units, seven units until September 15, 2003, and	42
six units thereafter.	43
Each student's electives shall include at least one unit, or	44
two half units, chosen from among the areas of	45
business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language.	46

(C) Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2010, except as provided in divisions (D) to (F) of this section, the requirements for graduation from every public and chartered nonpublic high school shall include twenty units that are designed to prepare students for the workforce and college. The units shall be distributed as follows:

(1) English language arts, four units;

(2) Health, one-half unit, which shall include instruction in nutrition and the benefits of nutritious foods and physical activity for overall health;

(3) Mathematics, four units, which shall include one unit of algebra II or the equivalent of algebra II;

(4) Physical education, one-half unit;

(5) Science, three units with inquiry-based laboratory experience that engages students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information, which shall include the following, or their equivalent:

(a) Physical sciences, one unit;

(b) Life sciences, one unit;

(c) Advanced study in one or more of the following sciences, one unit:

(i) Chemistry, physics, or other physical science;

(ii) Advanced biology or other life science;

(iii) Astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science.

(6) History and government, one unit, which shall comply with division (M) of this section and shall include both of the following:

- (a) American history, one-half unit; 76
- (b) American government, one-half unit. 77
- (7) Social studies, two units. 78

Each school shall integrate the study of economics and 79  
financial literacy, as expressed in the social studies academic 80  
content standards adopted by the state board of education under 81  
division (A)(1) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code and the 82  
academic content standards for financial literacy and 83  
entrepreneurship adopted under division (A)(2) of that section, 84  
into one or more existing social studies credits required under 85  
division (C)(7) of this section, or into the content of another 86  
class, so that every high school student receives instruction in 87  
those concepts. In developing the curriculum required by this 88  
paragraph, schools shall use available public-private partnerships 89  
and resources and materials that exist in business, industry, and 90  
through the centers for economics education at institutions of 91  
higher education in the state. 92

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first 93  
time on or after the first day of July that next succeeds the 94  
effective date of this amendment, the two units of instruction 95  
prescribed by division (C)(7) of this section shall include at 96  
least one unit of instruction in the history of one or more 97  
cultures from around the world other than that of the United 98  
States. 99

(8) Five units consisting of one or any combination of 100  
foreign language, fine arts, business, career-technical education, 101  
family and consumer sciences, technology, agricultural education, 102  
a junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) program approved 103  
by the congress of the United States under title 10 of the United 104  
States Code, or English language arts, mathematics, science, or 105  
social studies courses not otherwise required under division (C) 106

of this section. 107

Ohioans must be prepared to apply increased knowledge and 108  
skills in the workplace and to adapt their knowledge and skills 109  
quickly to meet the rapidly changing conditions of the 110  
twenty-first century. National studies indicate that all high 111  
school graduates need the same academic foundation, regardless of 112  
the opportunities they pursue after graduation. The goal of Ohio's 113  
system of elementary and secondary education is to prepare all 114  
students for and seamlessly connect all students to success in 115  
life beyond high school graduation, regardless of whether the next 116  
step is entering the workforce, beginning an apprenticeship, 117  
engaging in post-secondary training, serving in the military, or 118  
pursuing a college degree. 119

The Ohio core curriculum is the standard expectation for all 120  
students entering ninth grade for the first time at a public or 121  
chartered nonpublic high school on or after July 1, 2010. A 122  
student may satisfy this expectation through a variety of methods, 123  
including, but not limited to, integrated, applied, 124  
career-technical, and traditional coursework. 125

Whereas teacher quality is essential for student success in 126  
completing the Ohio core curriculum, the general assembly shall 127  
appropriate funds for strategic initiatives designed to strengthen 128  
schools' capacities to hire and retain highly qualified teachers 129  
in the subject areas required by the curriculum. Such initiatives 130  
are expected to require an investment of \$120,000,000 over five 131  
years. 132

Stronger coordination between high schools and institutions 133  
of higher education is necessary to prepare students for more 134  
challenging academic endeavors and to lessen the need for academic 135  
remediation in college, thereby reducing the costs of higher 136  
education for Ohio's students, families, and the state. The state 137  
board and the chancellor of the Ohio board of regents shall 138

develop policies to ensure that only in rare instances will 139  
students who complete the Ohio core curriculum require academic 140  
remediation after high school. 141

School districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic 142  
schools shall integrate technology into learning experiences 143  
across the curriculum in order to maximize efficiency, enhance 144  
learning, and prepare students for success in the 145  
technology-driven twenty-first century. Districts and schools 146  
shall use distance and web-based course delivery as a method of 147  
providing or augmenting all instruction required under this 148  
division, including laboratory experience in science. Districts 149  
and schools shall utilize technology access and electronic 150  
learning opportunities provided by the eTech Ohio commission, the 151  
Ohio learning network, education technology centers, public 152  
television stations, and other public and private providers. 153

(D) Except as provided in division (E) of this section, a 154  
student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010, and 155  
before July 1, 2014, may qualify for graduation from a public or 156  
chartered nonpublic high school even though the student has not 157  
completed the Ohio core curriculum prescribed in division (C) of 158  
this section if all of the following conditions are satisfied: 159

(1) After the student has attended high school for two years, 160  
as determined by the school, the student and the student's parent, 161  
guardian, or custodian sign and file with the school a written 162  
statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's 163  
consent to the student's graduating without completing the Ohio 164  
core curriculum and acknowledging that one consequence of not 165  
completing the Ohio core curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in 166  
most state universities in Ohio without further coursework. 167

(2) The student and parent, guardian, or custodian fulfill 168  
any procedural requirements the school stipulates to ensure the 169  
student's and parent's, guardian's, or custodian's informed 170

consent and to facilitate orderly filing of statements under 171  
division (D)(1) of this section. 172

(3) The student and the student's parent, guardian, or 173  
custodian and a representative of the student's high school 174  
jointly develop an individual career plan for the student that 175  
specifies the student matriculating to a two-year degree program, 176  
acquiring a business and industry credential, or entering an 177  
apprenticeship. 178

(4) The student's high school provides counseling and support 179  
for the student related to the plan developed under division 180  
(D)(3) of this section during the remainder of the student's high 181  
school experience. 182

(5) The student successfully completes, at a minimum, the 183  
curriculum prescribed in division (B) of this section. 184

The department of education, in collaboration with the 185  
chancellor, shall analyze student performance data to determine if 186  
there are mitigating factors that warrant extending the exception 187  
permitted by division (D) of this section to high school classes 188  
beyond those entering ninth grade before July 1, 2014. The 189  
department shall submit its findings and any recommendations not 190  
later than August 1, 2014, to the speaker and minority leader of 191  
the house of representatives, the president and minority leader of 192  
the senate, the chairpersons and ranking minority members of the 193  
standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate 194  
that consider education legislation, the state board of education, 195  
and the superintendent of public instruction. 196

(E) Each school district and chartered nonpublic school 197  
retains the authority to require an even more rigorous minimum 198  
curriculum for high school graduation than specified in division 199  
(B) or (C) of this section. A school district board of education, 200  
through the adoption of a resolution, or the governing authority 201

of a chartered nonpublic school may stipulate any of the 202  
following: 203

(1) A minimum high school curriculum that requires more than 204  
twenty units of academic credit to graduate; 205

(2) An exception to the district's or school's minimum high 206  
school curriculum that is comparable to the exception provided in 207  
division (D) of this section but with additional requirements, 208  
which may include a requirement that the student successfully 209  
complete more than the minimum curriculum prescribed in division 210  
(B) of this section; 211

(3) That no exception comparable to that provided in division 212  
(D) of this section is available. 213

(F) A student enrolled in a dropout prevention and recovery 214  
program, which program has received a waiver from the department, 215  
may qualify for graduation from high school by successfully 216  
completing a competency-based instructional program administered 217  
by the dropout prevention and recovery program in lieu of 218  
completing the Ohio core curriculum prescribed in division (C) of 219  
this section. The department shall grant a waiver to a dropout 220  
prevention and recovery program, within sixty days after the 221  
program applies for the waiver, if the program meets all of the 222  
following conditions: 223

(1) The program serves only students not younger than sixteen 224  
years of age and not older than twenty-one years of age. 225

(2) The program enrolls students who, at the time of their 226  
initial enrollment, either, or both, are at least one grade level 227  
behind their cohort age groups or experience crises that 228  
significantly interfere with their academic progress such that 229  
they are prevented from continuing their traditional programs. 230

(3) The program requires students to attain at least the 231  
applicable score designated for each of the assessments prescribed 232

under division (B)(1) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code or, 233  
to the extent prescribed by rule of the state board under division 234  
(D)(6) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code, division (B)(2) 235  
of that section. 236

(4) The program develops an individual career plan for the 237  
student that specifies the student's matriculating to a two-year 238  
degree program, acquiring a business and industry credential, or 239  
entering an apprenticeship. 240

(5) The program provides counseling and support for the 241  
student related to the plan developed under division (F)(4) of 242  
this section during the remainder of the student's high school 243  
experience. 244

(6) The program requires the student and the student's 245  
parent, guardian, or custodian to sign and file, in accordance 246  
with procedural requirements stipulated by the program, a written 247  
statement asserting the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's 248  
consent to the student's graduating without completing the Ohio 249  
core curriculum and acknowledging that one consequence of not 250  
completing the Ohio core curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in 251  
most state universities in Ohio without further coursework. 252

(7) Prior to receiving the waiver, the program has submitted 253  
to the department an instructional plan that demonstrates how the 254  
academic content standards adopted by the state board under 255  
section 3301.079 of the Revised Code will be taught and assessed. 256

If the department does not act either to grant the waiver or 257  
to reject the program application for the waiver within sixty days 258  
as required under this section, the waiver shall be considered to 259  
be granted. 260

(G) Every high school may permit students below the ninth 261  
grade to take advanced work. If a high school so permits, it shall 262  
award high school credit for successful completion of the advanced 263

work and shall count such advanced work toward the graduation 264  
requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section if the 265  
advanced work was both: 266

(1) Taught by a person who possesses a license or certificate 267  
issued under section 3301.071, 3319.22, or 3319.222 of the Revised 268  
Code that is valid for teaching high school; 269

(2) Designated by the board of education of the city, local, 270  
or exempted village school district, the board of the cooperative 271  
education school district, or the governing authority of the 272  
chartered nonpublic school as meeting the high school curriculum 273  
requirements. 274

Each high school shall record on the student's high school 275  
transcript all high school credit awarded under division (G) of 276  
this section. In addition, if the student completed a seventh- or 277  
eighth-grade fine arts course described in division (K) of this 278  
section and the course qualified for high school credit under that 279  
division, the high school shall record that course on the 280  
student's high school transcript. 281

(H) The department shall make its individual academic career 282  
plan available through its Ohio career information system web site 283  
for districts and schools to use as a tool for communicating with 284  
and providing guidance to students and families in selecting high 285  
school courses. 286

(I) Units earned in English language arts, mathematics, 287  
science, and social studies that are delivered through integrated 288  
academic and career-technical instruction are eligible to meet the 289  
graduation requirements of division (B) or (C) of this section. 290

(J) The state board, in consultation with the chancellor, 291  
shall adopt a statewide plan implementing methods for students to 292  
earn units of high school credit based on a demonstration of 293  
subject area competency, instead of or in combination with 294

completing hours of classroom instruction. The state board shall 295  
adopt the plan not later than March 31, 2009, and commence phasing 296  
in the plan during the 2009-2010 school year. The plan shall 297  
include a standard method for recording demonstrated proficiency 298  
on high school transcripts. Each school district and community 299  
school shall comply with the state board's plan adopted under this 300  
division and award units of high school credit in accordance with 301  
the plan. The state board may adopt existing methods for earning 302  
high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area 303  
competency as necessary prior to the 2009-2010 school year. 304

(K) This division does not apply to students who qualify for 305  
graduation from high school under division (D) or (F) of this 306  
section, or to students pursuing a career-technical instructional 307  
track as determined by the school district board of education or 308  
the chartered nonpublic school's governing authority. 309  
Nevertheless, the general assembly encourages such students to 310  
consider enrolling in a fine arts course as an elective. 311

Beginning with students who enter ninth grade for the first 312  
time on or after July 1, 2010, each student enrolled in a public 313  
or chartered nonpublic high school shall complete two semesters or 314  
the equivalent of fine arts to graduate from high school. The 315  
coursework may be completed in any of grades seven to twelve. Each 316  
student who completes a fine arts course in grade seven or eight 317  
may elect to count that course toward the five units of electives 318  
required for graduation under division (C)(8) of this section, if 319  
the course satisfied the requirements of division (G) of this 320  
section. In that case, the high school shall award the student 321  
high school credit for the course and count the course toward the 322  
five units required under division (C)(8) of this section. If the 323  
course in grade seven or eight did not satisfy the requirements of 324  
division (G) of this section, the high school shall not award the 325  
student high school credit for the course but shall count the 326

course toward the two semesters or the equivalent of fine arts 327  
required by this division. 328

(L) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, 329  
the board of education of each school district and the governing 330  
authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to 331  
excuse from the high school physical education requirement each 332  
student who, during high school, has participated in 333  
interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading for at 334  
least two full seasons or in the junior reserve officer training 335  
corps for at least two full school years. If the board or 336  
authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not 337  
require the student to complete any physical education course as a 338  
condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to 339  
complete one-half unit, consisting of at least sixty hours of 340  
instruction, in another course of study. In the case of a student 341  
who has participated in the junior reserve officer training corps 342  
for at least two full school years, credit received for that 343  
participation may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete 344  
one-half unit in another course of study. 345

(M) It is important that high school students learn and 346  
understand United States history and the governments of both the 347  
United States and the state of Ohio. Therefore, beginning with 348  
students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 349  
1, 2012, the study of American history and American government 350  
required by divisions (B)(6) and (C)(6) of this section shall 351  
include the study of all of the following documents: 352

(1) The Declaration of Independence; 353

(2) The Northwest Ordinance; 354

(3) The Constitution of the United States with emphasis on 355  
the Bill of Rights; 356

(4) The Ohio Constitution. 357

The study of each of the documents prescribed in divisions 358  
(M)(1) to (4) of this section shall include study of that document 359  
in its original context. 360

The study of American history and government required by 361  
divisions (B)(6) and (C)(6) of this section shall include the 362  
historical evidence of the role of documents such as the 363  
Federalist Papers and the Anti-Federalist Papers to firmly 364  
establish the historical background leading to the establishment 365  
of the provisions of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. 366

**Section 2.** That existing section 3313.603 of the Revised Code 367  
is hereby repealed. 368