




# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools and Heads of Schools  
**FROM:** Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker   
**DATE:** July 7, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Curriculum

Questions have recently arisen regarding the Black and Latino Studies course that local and regional school districts must implement at the high school level for the school year commencing July 1, 2022, and each year thereafter. The Legislature, during the 2019 General Assembly Legislative Session, passed Public Act 19-12 which required the State Board of Education (SBE) to review and approve a Black and Latino Studies course developed by the State Education Resource Center (SERC) no later than January 1, 2021. In December of 2020, the SBE adopted the [African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Curriculum](#) designed by SERC in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

The Public Act further stated that local and regional boards of education may offer the course beginning with the 2021-22 school year and must offer the course beginning with the 2022-23 school year for Grades 9-12.

There was some ambiguity as to whether the course created by SERC must be used by districts, so the Legislature passed Section 385 of Public Act 21-2 during the 2021 June Special Session, which explicitly cites the course developed by SERC, and approved by the SBE pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) §10-16tt, as the Black and Latino Studies course that local and regional boards of education are required to implement for Grades 9-12 starting in the school year commencing July 1, 2022. This mandate is codified in C.G.S. §10-16tt(b), which provision also includes an auditing aspect conducted by the CSDE for the school years commencing July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2024, inclusive.

This course has already been successfully piloted in 58 schools, and there is [ongoing professional support and training](#) that educators can register for. In a recent showcase hosted by SERC, educators and students shared their insights and positive experiences regarding the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies.

Subsequently, in response to inquiries we are notifying each local and regional board of education that they must offer the course created by SERC and approved by the SBE for the upcoming school year for Grades 9-12.

Questions regarding this course may be directed to Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi at [Irene.Parisi@ct.gov](mailto:Irene.Parisi@ct.gov).