

I am writing in response to Senate Bill 683.

As a former social studies teacher and involved parent of 2 school-age children, I am not sure this is the best pathway to achieve the results you are seeking. The social studies standards/curriculum exist to provide a framework for what is taught; it is the teacher that will implement and execute those standards.

It is not a mandate that is needed to improve or change what is being taught. If you want to see change, then you need to look at teacher training and accountability. Implementing another mandate for districts only puts pressure on the administration but will have no immediate reflection on what happens in the classroom. More resources need to be available for teacher training, mentoring and accountability. It is well documented that the curriculum is only as good as the teacher.

Also take into consideration the overwhelming task districts have to adjusting to a new normal and using all available resources to successfully re-open schools. Is this the best time to be asking school districts to adopt new curricula? Which will take time, resources, and money to implement?