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NEWS RELEASE

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New Jersey Schools Now Required to Teach Inclusion and Diversity

Mount Laurel, NJ — A new law signed by Governor Phil Murphy last week now requires NJ school districts to teach inclusion and diversity classes in the curriculum.

Legislation A-4454 will instruct New Jersey school districts to adopt classes on inclusion, diversity, and connection in gender studies where appropriate for students from kindergarten to twelve grades. The curriculum is set to take place in the 2021-2022 school year. Sample learning activities and resources promoting the topics of discussion will be provided by the Commissioner of Education.

Deputy Mayor Kareem Pritchett became aware of the lack of diversity studies while meeting with teachers of color across Burlington County. “By providing students and teachers with the resources to understand the importance of diversity we will build stronger futures, one of tolerance and acceptance” Deputy Mayor Kareem Pritchett stated.

The measure was co-sponsored by Democratic state lawmakers Carol Murphy, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and Anthony Verrelli. The three released a joint statement saying “Schools in New Jersey reflect the rich diversity of our state. In health and physical education classes, students are taught to respect their individual and cultural differences to build healthy relationships both in and out of the classroom. The natural next step is to promote diversity, tolerance and respect for all. These are values students will take with them long after they graduate.”

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