



# Oaklyn Public School District Board of Education

---

## As a Board we believe that...

The continued education of students, staff, and community to support inclusive excellence and social justice is an essential investment.

Equity and inclusion are fundamental elements of all decision-making and curriculum development.

Learning opportunities should incorporate and mirror the diversity of the 21st century so that our students are prepared to participate in a global economy.

**The Oaklyn Board of Education is dedicated to supporting practices that promote dignity and respect for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, differing ability, sexual orientation, gender identity & expression, family configuration, socioeconomic status, or immigration status.**

For more information and resources please visit:

[New Jersey School Boards Association](#)

[New Jersey Department of Education](#)

Related Board Policies: [1523](#), [2260](#),

---

### Diversity and Inclusion Statute ([N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.36a](#))

18A:35-4.36a Curriculum to include instruction on diversity and inclusion.

1. a. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each school district shall incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

b. The instruction shall:

- (1) highlight and promote diversity, including economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance;
- (2) examine the impact that unconscious bias and economic disparities have at both an individual level and on society as a whole; and
- (3) encourage safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender identities, mental and physical disabilities, and religious beliefs.

### LGBT and Individuals with Disabilities Statute ([N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.35-6](#))

18A:35-4.35: History of disabled and LGBT persons included in middle and high school curriculum.

1. A board of education shall include instruction on the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, in an appropriate place in the curriculum of middle school and high school students as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. 18A:35-4.36 Policies, procedures pertaining to inclusive instructional materials.
2. A board of education shall have policies and procedures in place pertaining to the selection of instructional materials to implement the requirements of section 1 of this act. When adopting instructional materials for use in the schools of the district, a board of education shall adopt inclusive instructional materials that portray the cultural and economic diversity of society including the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, where appropriate.

**Asian American/Pacific Islander Law** ensures that the contributions, history, and heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are included in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for Social Studies in kindergarten through Grade 12 ([P.L.2021, c.416](#)); and Establishes the Commission on Asian American Heritage within the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) (P.L.2021, c.410). The purpose of the Commission on Asian American Heritage is in part to "survey, design, encourage, and promote the implementation of Asian or Asian American cultural and educational programs in this State." The Commission on Asian American Heritage will be supported by the NJDOE's Office of Commissions, which also interfaces with the New Jersey Amistad Commission, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, the New Jersey Commission on Italian and Italian American Heritage, and the New Jersey Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage.

**Holocaust Law** [N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28](#) Every board of education shall include instruction on the Holocaust and genocide in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school pupils. The instruction shall further emphasize the personal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens.

**Amistad Law** [N.J.S.A. 18A 52:16A-88](#) Every board of education shall incorporate the information regarding the history and contributions of African Americans to our country in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary and secondary school students. This law was updated via N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.43 to include: Every board of education shall include, in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students, instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans in the building and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, military, government, and the professions; local communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and the arts; social institutions and culture; and other aspects of life in America.