



**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Endorses the Creation of Asian American and Latino American Courses in
Virginia Secondary Schools**

Whereas,

Diverse curriculums can bridge racial divides, encourage racial tolerance, and decrease racial prejudice, while affirming the mental health and cultures of minority students.

Virginia and its localities have created classes for minorities and other marginalized communities, including African American History and gender studies.

The National Education Association has concluded that students in ethnic study classes are more “academically engaged” and experience “stronger sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment”.

Multiple studies, including 2017 and 2014 quasi-experiments featured in the American

Educational Research Journal, suggested that ethnic study curriculums can lead to higher graduation rates, standardized test scores, math achievement, and GPAs among minority students.

Few curriculums in Virginia include in-depth discussions on Asian American and Latino American history.

Asian American and Latino American populations in Virginia are rapidly growing, and now compose a combined 37.6 percent of Fairfax County and 24.7 percent of Virginia according to the 2020 Census.

Virginia’s increasingly diverse student body deserves a curriculum that represents all students.

A basic understanding of various cultures and histories is essential in an increasingly global economy.

Upwards of 60 percent of Americans in 2020 felt they did not receive “enough education” about Asian Americans and Latino Americans, according to polling from Axios.

Asian American and Latino Americans from all religions, political parties, and income levels have made vibrant contributions to America’s culture, national security, technology, economy and society as a whole.

Asian American and Latino Americans play an integral role in Fairfax County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee:

1. Endorses the creation of Asian American and Latino American courses in secondary schools in Virginia; and
2. Strongly urges the General Assembly to pass legislation developing Asian American and Latino American history courses in the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 23rd day of November 2021.