COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2026 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-012-2026

Proposed by Council Member Adams-Stafford

Introduced by Council Members Adams-Stafford, Hunter, Adams, Burroughs, Oriadha, Olson, Blegay and Fisher

Co-Sponsors Council Member Dernoga

Date of Introduction March 3, 2026

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Enhanced African American Studies Curriculum in Prince George's County

For the purpose of the County Council affirming its support for mandatory, comprehensive African American history instruction in all Prince George's County public schools.

WHEREAS, Prince George's County is one of the most diverse and predominantly African American jurisdictions in the nation; and

WHEREAS, African American history is American history and is foundational to understanding the social, political, and economic development of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Black studies, or Africana studies (with nationally specific terms, such as African American studies and Black Canadian studies), is an interdisciplinary academic field that primarily focuses on the study of the history, culture, and politics of the peoples of the Black African diaspora and Africa. The field includes scholars of African-American, Afro-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latino, Afro-European, Afro-Asian, Afro-Australian, and African literature, history, politics, and religion as well as those from disciplines, such as sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, education, and many other disciplines within the humanities and social sciences; and

WHEREAS, inclusive curriculum have been shown to improve student engagement, academic outcomes, and cultural competency for all students; and

WHEREAS, Prince George's County has played a significant role in the history of African Americans in Maryland and the nation, including in civil rights, government, education, and culture; and

WHEREAS, students benefit from instruction that reflects their identities, histories, and lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, preparing students for civic participation requires honest and comprehensive teaching of historical successes, struggles, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, access to African American history instruction should not vary by school, zip code, or grade level; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have represented a significant portion of the American population from nearly twenty percent at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, almost all of whom, if not all, were victims of the largest forced deportations in recorded history, the transatlantic slave trade and resulting African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding breadth and size of such a population merits a comprehensive and thorough study of their history; and

WHEREAS, although slavery was not abolished and African Americans not acknowledged as American citizens until the mid-nineteenth century, servitude did not abate their contributions to the settlement, growth, and development of the United States, which continued through Post-Reconstruction, Jim Crow, industrialization, World Wars and conflicts, innovation and inventiveness, constitutional progress, and every aspect of American society; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 research study conducted by the National Museum of African American History and Culture and reported in "Research into the State of African American History and Culture in K–12 Public Schools", key findings indicated that teachers considered Black history as influential in understanding the complexity of United States history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the County Council hereby supports the requirement that African American history be taught in every school in Prince George's County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that African American history should be:

- Taught across grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school);
- Integrated across the curriculum and across grade levels and subject areas, and/or offered as stand-alone coursework where appropriate;
- Aligned with Maryland State Department of Education standards;
- Inclusive of local Prince George's County and Maryland history.

- Emphasize equitable access to African American history instruction for all students, including English learners and students with disabilities.
- Encourage periodic inclusion of assessments to ensure curriculum implementation and expected instructional outcomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council encourages continued collaboration to ensure high-quality, inclusive, and effective instruction for all students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council supports efforts to require the Maryland State Board of Education to include instruction on the history and contributions of African Americans and the Black Diaspora in appropriate places in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through Grade 12 as part of the school district's implementation of Maryland's core curricula for Social Studies and English Language Arts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council supports multicultural education that includes Latino history, Asian and Pacific Islander history, and Native American and Indigenous history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council supports interdisciplinary integration of Black and African American history in subject areas across the humanities and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics courses by 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council supports interdisciplinary integration of Latino history in subject areas across the humanities and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics courses by 2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council supports interdisciplinary integration of Asian and Pacific Islander history and Native American and Indigenous history in subject areas across the humanities and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics courses by 2029.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council strongly urge the Maryland State Board of Education in collaboration with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, and other African American and Africana Studies experts as appropriate, to develop curricular standards.

Adopted this 24th day of March, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

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Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council