



Please help us advocate to include AANHPI history in our K-12 history curriculum!

Take action today in support of **SB 6314**, a bill to require the inclusion of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) history in Washington state social studies learning standards by September 2027 and to require the instruction of AANHPI history in grades K-12 beginning in the 2028 school year.

The Senate has indicated that it will not move forward with SB 6314 this legislative session, which ends on **March 7, 2024**. While we recognize it is a shorter session this year, we would like to at the very least, request that we still get a hearing scheduled during this session.

Follow SB 6314's progress: [Bill Summary](#)

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ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Email Senator Lisa Wellman** (Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Chair)
 - a. Go to Sen. Wellman's [contact page](#) and fill out the form
 - b. Ask her to ensure SB 6314 gets heard during this legislative session

Personalize this sample script:

Dear Senator Lisa Wellman,

I am in support of SB 6314, providing instruction on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history in Washington state K-12 public schools. This bill is important to me because [reason why]. As a Washington state resident, I am requesting that you help ensure SB 6314 gets heard this legislative session. Thank you for your favorable support of this bill.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[City, State]

2. Send a comment to Superintendent Chris Reykdal, urging OSPI to begin the process of reviewing and revising the state learning standards to include Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander history in the social studies learning standards.

- a. Feel free to use our letter (below) as a sample and mail to OSPI; or
- b. Fill out a [website form](#), select “Ask the Superintendent” in the question category drop down menu, and complete the question box to make this request (using our letter below as a sample).

MESSAGING POINTS TO CONSIDER:

1. The contributions of the AANHPI community in Washington and throughout the country have largely been invisible. Instead, there’s been a rise of hate towards AANHPIs.
2. According to [Stop AAPI Hate](#), Washington had the third highest number of anti-AAPI hate incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021. Hate incidents continue to happen in our state. [Most recently](#), Wing Luke Museum in Seattle was vandalized by a man shouting racist statements.
3. We believe that by educating our youth about the history of the AANHPI community, we will build understanding and connection that can prevent future hate incidents.
4. With 12 percent of our state’s population being AANHPI, we believe that the 280,000 AANHPI students should see themselves accurately represented in the school context.
5. In April 2021, [Illinois became the first state](#) to require the teaching of AAPI history. Since then Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Florida have all passed similar laws. We believe that Washington can be next!

LETTER TO SUPERINTENDENT REYKDAL:



Superintendent Chris Reykdal
600 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98504

February 20, 2024

Dear Superintendent Reykdal,

We are a coalition of students, educators, caregivers, and community leaders advocating for the integration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) contributions, experiences, and histories in Washington's K-12 classrooms. Together, we are the Washington chapter of Make Us Visible, and over the last year and a half, have been engaging in community building, advocacy, and education with various stakeholders.

The contributions of the AANHPI community in Washington and throughout the country have largely been invisible. Instead, there has been a rise of hate toward AANHPIs, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. In that period, Washington had the third highest number of anti-AAPI hate incidents and these incidents continue to this day. We believe that by educating our youth about the history of the AANHPI communities, we will build understanding and connection that can prevent future incidents of bullying, hate, and violence. With 12 percent of our state's population being AANHPI, the over 280,000 AANHPI students should see themselves accurately represented in the K-12 school context.

Among the Asian American communities in Washington, we must include the history of the Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and many other East, South and Southeast Asian Americans. We should learn about the Native Hawaiian communities and among the Pacific Islander American communities, we should learn about the Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Chamorro, Micronesian, Palauan, Marshallese, and migrants from other islands.

While "U.S. History and Government" is a graduation requirement for all our students, the history being taught is unfortunately not always inclusive of all our students or the communities they come from. This is a disservice to all our students, and is not an accurate reflection of our state's diverse history. K-12 learning standards should be reviewed and revised for inclusion in both Washington state and United States history classes by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. We believe this is a necessity for the graduates of our state's education system to be successful in an increasingly diverse and intersectional society.

We look forward to your response on how the contributions, experiences, and histories of AANHPI communities can be incorporated into our state's learning standards and how school districts may be encouraged and supported to better include these topics in the curricula they adopt.

Sincerely,

Make Us Visible Washington