

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RESCIND THE STATE OF FLORIDA’S REJECTION OF THE INCLUSION OF THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE IN THE FLORIDA COURSE CODE DIRECTORY AND INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .”; and

WHEREAS, the Advanced Placement (“AP”) Program is administered by the College Board and consists of college-level courses referred to as AP Courses; and

WHEREAS, AP courses are rigorous high school courses that may count for college credit in addition to high school credit, upon the successful completion of the appropriate AP exam; and

WHEREAS, AP courses are designed to bring the college experience to high school students to earn college credits and build confidence, and to learn the essential time-management and study skills that are needed for college and career success; and

WHEREAS, the AP curriculum for each of the diverse subjects is created for the College Board by a panel of experts and college-level educators in the specified academic discipline; and

WHEREAS, for a high school course to have an AP designation, the course must be audited by the College Board to ascertain that it satisfies the AP curriculum; and

WHEREAS, for more than a decade, the AP Program worked alongside colleges, universities, and secondary schools and drew from the expertise and experience of college faculty and teachers across the country to create an AP course in African American Studies; and

WHEREAS, the AP African American Studies course is an interdisciplinary course that is designed to offer high school students an evidence-based introduction to African American studies that reaches into a variety of fields, including literature, the arts and humanities, political science, geography, and science to explore the vital contributions and experience of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, essentially the College Board’s AP African American Studies course is designed to provide students with a solid understanding of how African Americans have shaped America, its history laws, institutions, culture, and arts; and

WHEREAS, the College Board’s proposed timeline for the nationwide development of the African Studies course is as follows:

2022-23	First pilot at 60 schools across the country.
2023-24	Pilot expands to hundreds of additional schools.
2024-25	All schools can begin offering AP African American Studies.
2024-25	First AP African American Studies Exams are administered.

WHEREAS, State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09441, Florida Administrative Code, provides that in order to receive funding through the Florida Education Finance Program and for which a student may earn credit toward high school graduation the course must be listed in the “Course Code Directory, and Instructional Assignments for the year in which the student is in membership; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Education approved the following AP Courses and Exams for inclusion in the Florida Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments that are similar to the AP African American Studies course¹:

1. AP European History – Study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that have shaped Europe from c. 1450 to the present. You’ll analyze texts, visual sources, and other historical evidence and write essays expressing historical arguments.

¹ See, <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/course-index-page>

2. **AP Chinese Language and Culture** - Develop your Mandarin Chinese language skills and learn about Chinese culture. You'll practice communicating in Chinese and you'll engage with real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

3. **AP French Language and Culture** - Develop your French language skills and learn about the cultures in French-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in French and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

4. **AP German Language and Culture** - Develop your German language skills and learn about the cultures in German-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in German and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

5. **AP Italian Language and Culture** - Develop your Italian language skills and learn about the cultures in Italian-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in Italian and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

6. **Japanese Language and Culture** - Develop your Japanese language skills and learn about Japanese culture. You'll practice communicating in Japanese and you'll engage with real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

7. **AP Latin** - Learn to read and analyze Latin literature as you explore ancient Roman history and culture. You'll translate passages from the writings of Vergil and Caesar and examine them through class discussions, debates, and presentations.

8. **AP Spanish Language and Culture** - Develop your Spanish language skills and learn about the cultures in Spanish-speaking parts of the world. You'll practice communicating in Spanish and study real-life materials such as newspaper articles, films, music, and books.

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2023, despite the College Board's decade-long development of the AP African American Studies course, the Florida Department of Education notified the College Board Florida Partnership that it does not approve the inclusion of the AP African American Studies course because the *course is inexplicably contrary to Florida law and significantly lacks educational value.*

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami recognize the importance of commemorating Black History Month as it acknowledges the achievements of African Americans throughout our Nation's history and encourages the continuation of its celebration to raise the awareness of this community's accomplishments for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. **Incorporation.** The above WHEREAS clauses are hereby incorporated by reference into this Resolution.

Section 2. **Recommendation.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami hereby denounce the Department of Education's decision to reject the inclusion of the College Board's AP Advanced Placement African American Studies Course and hereby urges Governor Ron DeSantis and the Department of Education to rescind their decision and include the Course in the Florida Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments because of its academic value for all Florida high school students.

Section 3. **Transmittal.** The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami hereby directs the City Clerk to transmit an executed copy of this Resolution to the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Department of Education.

Section 4. **Conflicts.** That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. **Effective Date.** That this Resolution shall be in force and take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 5-0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 14th day of February, 2023.


ALIX DESULME, Ed.D.
MAYOR


ATTEST:



VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM

AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR ALIX DESULME

Moved by: Galvin

Seconded by: Estimé-Irvin

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.	<u>X</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Vice-Mayor Mary Estimé-Irvin	<u>X</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Councilman Scott Galvin	<u>X</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Councilwoman Kassandra Timothe, MPA	<u>X</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles	<u>X</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)