

AB 1056 Tolerance Curriculum Talking Points

1. AB 1056 is a “Tolerance Education Pilot Program” that will be implemented in the history/social science curricula of ten schools (kindergarten through grade 12). Each school would receive a \$25,000 grant for the program. Schools are encouraged to consult with civil rights groups involved in addressing discrimination based on actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation (homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism). Clearly, the intent is to include characteristics involving “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” in school curriculum in kindergarten through grade 12. A recent amendment attempted to define “tolerance”: *For purposes of this article, “tolerance” means attitudes and behaviors that convey respect toward individuals and groups, especially those individuals and groups that have been, and continue to be, systematically and historically marginalized. Tolerance does not mean a passive allowance or indulgence of the beliefs or practices of another individual.* Plain and simple, this program is a moral mine field in our schools. Bear in mind that history has borne out the fact that pilot programs often become universal ones, just as recommendations eventually become requirements.
2. This bill and AB 606, which requires that “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” be included in schools’ antidiscrimination and antiharassment policies, are the first mandated manifestations of AB 537 and related bills passed several years ago. Those measures resulted in task force recommendations that included changing school curricula to address sexual behaviors and transgender issues.
3. The new version of AB 1056 is a more incremental approach to the goal of a broader tolerance curriculum. This is ten schools too many to be involved in a program to teach students in kindergarten through grade 12 about sexual orientation and various “gender identities” in history class.
4. Violence toward any person based on his or her personal characteristic is wrong and there are criminal statutes to ensure harm against persons will be punished. All people should be afforded common courtesy; however, the definition of tolerance, formerly relating to courtesy, has changed during recent years such that individuals are not merely expected to act with kindness toward others, but to accept all their differences, particularly those involving alternative sexual behaviors, as normal and equal in all ways.
5. Homosexual acts are unhealthy – especially for males. Like smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, they should be discouraged. Dangerous behavior that shortens a person’s life should never be promoted to impressionable students. A “tolerance” curriculum that includes homosexuality, bisexuality, transgenderism and other such behaviors identified in AB 1056 (Penal Code Section 422.55) would be unacceptable to most parents.
6. Teaching children to respect each other and get along with each other as an underlying precept is admirable. This can be done simply as children are encouraged to treat others with courtesy, as they would want to be treated. A separate curriculum is not only unnecessary, but would also divert important class time for non-academic purposes. Teachers are rightly concerned that there is already insufficient time to teach required subject matter.
7. California schools continue to struggle with high remediation rates. Only minimal progress has been made toward the California State University system’s goal of lowering the percentage of incoming freshmen needing remediation. In 2004, just 43 percent of freshmen were fully proficient in both English and math. There had been no change since fall of the prior year in students requiring help in math and only a one percent decrease in remediation rates for English. In 2005, California’s fourth graders ranked above only Mississippi and District of Columbia students on the National Assessment of Education Progress reading test. Students in just five states were lower than those from California in math. Rather than add a questionable non-academic curriculum, it would seem our schools should focus instead on increasing their emphasis on academics.
8. Another concern with AB 1056 is the requirement that the development of the curriculum involve “civil rights” organizations representing all the characteristics in Penal Code Section 422.55. These would include homosexual, bisexual, transsexual and other groups representing sexual behaviors, rather than immutable characteristics such as race and ethnicity. Most parents would object to their children being taught about sexual behaviors in the classroom and that various practices are morally equivalent. These moral issues and the acceptance of behaviors as normal or “right” are the domain of the family, not the schools.

For more information on the influence of the homosexual agenda in public education, please read [Fairy Tales Don’t Come True](#) by Linda Harvey.

See the Oakland Unified School District Middle School “Sexual Orientation” curriculum [here](#).

See the Safe Schools Coalition suggested activities for April (Gay Pride Month) [here](#).

See the Los Angeles Unified School District guide to transgender students [here](#).