

Wilmington, Delaware  
May 17, 2018

#4524

**Sponsor:**

**Council  
President  
Shabazz**

**Co-Sponsor:**

**Council  
Member  
Chukwuocha**

**WHEREAS**, demographic analysis conducted by The News Journal indicates that by 2060, Delaware will be one of the most diverse states in the nation, with New Castle County's racial and ethnic mix ranking in the top 6 percent of counties nationwide. Such projections reaffirm the need for elementary and secondary schools to better prepare students for an increasingly racially and ethnically diverse society and global economy. Ethnic Studies curricula stress the importance of critically examining the world through the lens of traditionally marginalized populations, encouraging a sense of community engagement and social responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, students of color account for more than 50 percent of the total student population in traditional school districts serving students from the City of Wilmington. As students of color proceed through the school system, research has found that the overwhelming dominance of Euro-American perspectives lead many such students to disengage from academic learning. Ethnic Studies, sometimes referred to as multicultural education or culturally responsive teaching, signifies a shift toward the experiences of ethnic communities who are often marginalized in classroom textbooks; and

**WHEREAS**, knowledge of the histories and experiences of diverse groups of people is essential to thrive in a globalized community. Ethnic Studies have shown significant increases in student attendance, Grade Point Average(GPA), and high-school credits earned towards graduation for the most marginalized students, based on research conducted by the Stanford Graduate School of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Ethnic Studies programs empower students from minority communities to reclaim their history, while enabling students of other backgrounds to learn about cultures beyond their own. Racial disparities in K-12 educational achievement necessitate the need for promising social-psychological interventions that illuminate a path forward in breaking the cycles of poverty, violence, and incarceration that so many communities of color face. Citywide education reform efforts aimed at improving math and reading proficiency rates, providing access to highly effective educators and school climate, must be reimagined to incent innovation and advance systemic education improvement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that Council encourages the adoption of a K-12 Ethnic Studies curriculum in school districts operating in and serving students from the City of Wilmington. The development of a comprehensive Ethnic Studies curriculum acknowledges the diversity of Delaware and would embrace the history and culture of all people.

Passed by City Council,  
May 17, 2018

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution calls for the adoption of a K-12 Ethnic Studies curriculum in school districts operating in and serving students from the City of Wilmington. Research indicating increases in student attendance, GPAs and credits earned towards graduation, pair favorably with citywide education reform efforts aimed at addressing racial disparities in K-12 educational achievement.