

RESOLUTION NO. 23-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RESCIND ITS DISAPPROVAL OF THE COLLEGE BOARD'S ADVANCED PLACEMENT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE, AND TO INCLUDE THE COLLEGE BOARD'S REVISED ADVANCED PLACEMENT AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE IN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S COURSE CODE DIRECTORY AND INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, OPPOSING ALL LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE MEASURES THAT WOULD ERODE OR DIMINISH THE INTEGRITY AND STANDARDS OF FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND INSTITUTIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION, RESCISSION OF CONFLICTING RESOLUTION PROVISIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Advanced Placement ("AP") Program is administered by the College Board, a not-for-profit membership corporation operating for educational purposes under a Charter granted by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York and on behalf of the New York State Education Department, and authorized to transact business in the State of Florida as College Board, Inc., ("College Board"), and consists of college-level courses referred to as AP Courses; and

WHEREAS, according to the College Board, "AP gives students the chance to tackle college-level work while they're still in high school—whether they're learning online or in the classroom. And through taking AP Exams, students can earn college credit and placement."; and

WHEREAS, according to the College Board, "AP courses and exams are designed by committees made up of college faculty and experienced AP teachers who ensure that the course and exam reflect college-level expectations."; and

WHEREAS, according to the College Board,

For more than a decade, the AP Program has worked alongside colleges, universities, and secondary schools to create an AP course in African American studies.

Drawing from the expertise and experience of college faculty and teachers across the country, the course is designed to offer high school students an evidence-based introduction to African American studies.

The interdisciplinary course reaches into a variety of fields—literature, the arts and humanities, political science, geography, and science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans.; and

WHEREAS, the College Board's Course Development Timeline for the development of the African American Studies course is as follows:

2022-23	First pilot at 60 schools across the country.
2023-24	Pilot expands to hundreds of additional high schools.
2024-25	All schools can begin offering AP African American Studies.
Spring 2025	First AP African American Studies Exams are administered.; and

WHEREAS, State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09441, Florida Administrative Code, provides, in part, that “[f]or student membership in a program or course to generate funding through the Florida Education Finance Program and for the student to receive elective or required credit toward high school graduation for such a course . . . (5) the course or program shall be listed in the ‘Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments’ for the year in which the student is in membership.”; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Education's 2022-2023 Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments includes the following Advanced Placement cultural programs:

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.
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.; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated January 12, 2023, the Florida Department of Education notified the College Board Florida Partnership as follows:

[T]he Florida Department of Education (FDOE) does not approve the inclusion of the Advanced Placement (AP) African American Studies course in the Florida Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments (adopted in State Board of Education Rule 6A-I.09441, Florida Administrative Code). As presented, the content of this course is inexplicably contrary to Florida law and significantly lacks educational value.; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2023, on the first day of Black History Month, the College Board delivered its release of the official framework for the AP African American Studies

course, which replaced the preliminary pilot course framework that was disapproved by the Florida Department of Education, and which, according to the College Board's Newsroom, "is an interdisciplinary course that draws from a variety of fields—history, literature, the arts, geography, science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans. As with all AP courses in the humanities, this is a course that offers direct engagement with evidence and events."; and

WHEREAS, according to the College Board's Official Course Framework, Project, and Exam Overview for AP African American Studies,

AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with authentic and varied sources. Students explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment. Given the interdisciplinary character of African American studies, students in the course will develop skills across multiple fields, with an emphasis on developing historical, literary, visual, and data analysis skills. This course foregrounds a study of the diversity of Black communities in the United States within the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora.; and

WHEREAS, according to the College Board's Newsroom,

The official framework is different from the preliminary pilot course framework in three important respects:

1. New topics added: Despite an overall reduction in the breadth of the course, the monthslong review by 300 African American Studies professors nationwide added a small number of topics to address important subjects that were not adequately represented in the pilot version.
2. Primary sources: The official course framework only requires the careful analysis of core historical, literary, and artistic works. As stated in the principles for AP courses published in March 2021: "AP courses ground such studies in primary sources so that students can evaluate experiences and evidence for themselves." Hence, consistent now with every other AP course, there is no required list of secondary sources.
3. Student projects: The official course framework dedicates time for students to explore topics in greater depth through a research project at the end of the

course that counts as part of their AP Exam score. Students pursue their own interests and choose their topic; they can return to areas they studied earlier in the course or address contemporary topics that are not part of the required course framework. These projects allow in-depth examination of contemporary issues rather than rapid, superficial coverage of them at the end of the course.; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2023, the College Board issued a release stating, in part, that its “commitment to AP African American Studies is unwavering,” that it regretted “not immediately denouncing the Florida Department of Education’s slander, magnified by the DeSantis administration’s subsequent comments, that African American Studies ‘lacks educational value,’” and that “[t]he official framework is a significant improvement, rather than a watering down”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, urges the Department of Education to rescind its disapproval of the College Board’s Advanced Placement African American Studies course, approve the official framework for the AP African American Studies course, and to include the revised Advanced Placement African American Studies course in the Florida Department of Education’s Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, opposes all legislative and executive measures that would erode or diminish the integrity and standards of Florida educational programs and institutions.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the College Board, the Florida Department of Education, Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr., State Board of Education Chair Thomas Grady, each member of the State Board of Education, and each member of the Broward Legislative Delegation.

SECTION 4. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall be in force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Interim City Attorney
D'WAYNE M. SPENCE

Dean J. Trantalis _____
John C. Herbst _____
Steven Glassman _____
Pamela Beasley-Pittman _____
Warren Sturman _____