

# Education USA

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## Curriculum



### Multicultural Curriculum Package Can Be Used Immediately In History, Social Studies Classes; Focuses on Six Ethnic Groups

While a debate has been raging in recent years over the merits of a multicultural curriculum, developers of Americans All have devised a comprehensive program that can be immediately injected into the public school curriculum, directors of the program said last week.

The privately funded program has been launched in five school districts nationwide and is slated for at least three more districts this year. **San Diego** and **Chicago** were the first to pilot test the program.

Whereas much of the multicultural curriculum debate has centered on a push to make the curriculum more Afro-centric, Americans All fosters "a full range of respect for all that made this country great," said former Atlanta mayor and United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young. Young is an honorary chairman of Americans All. "You can't just teach black children about black history."

Gail Christopher, co-director of the program, said, "What the facts tell

us, is that the need for multicultural education—and the materials and training that can deliver it directly to the nation's classrooms—is critical. It will take decades to revise and distribute texts that reflect the demographics and the diversity of this nation."

Americans All focuses on six population groups—Native Americans, Africans, Asians, Europeans, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans—that helped to build the nation. Materials relative to each of those groups are integrated throughout

the 3rd, 5th, 8th and 11th grade curriculum, predominantly in history, social studies, geography, civics, reading and writing classes. Extensive teacher training is also provided.

A recent evaluation of the pilot demonstrations in San Diego and Chicago by a University of Chicago professor shows the majority of teachers who participated attributed greater student participation, self-expression and appreciation for cultural diversity to their use of Americans All materials.