The National Association of Scholars generally recommends that Kentucky policymakers who wish to reform higher education examine all the model bills in the Civic Alliance’s Model Higher Education Code.[[1]](#endnote-1) We particularly recommend that they look at our model **School of Intellectual Freedom Act**.[[2]](#endnote-2) This model act has informed Ohio policymakers, who passed into law as part of their 2023 Budget authorization for five independent Centers, devoted to intellectual diversity, freedom, and the American heritage.[[3]](#endnote-3)

Ohio Senate Bill 83, which passed the Ohio Senate in June 2023, and will be considered by the Ohio House in the Fall 2023 session, also has been informed by several bills within the Model Higher Education Code.[[4]](#endnote-4) We believe that these bills would be particularly helpful for reforming Kentucky’s public universities, as they further institutionalize *transparency, accountability, depoliticization, nondiscrimination*, and *civic knowledge*.

The **Mission Statement Act** commits every component of the public university system to the free and un-politicized pursuit of truth.[[5]](#endnote-5)

The **Campus Intellectual Diversity Act** mandates institutional neutrality, prohibits political discrimination, and protects intellectual diversity.[[6]](#endnote-6)

The **Syllabus Transparency Act** requires public universities to post on the university website the syllabus of every undergraduate course.[[7]](#endnote-7)

The **American History Act** adds an American History and Government general education requirement to public universities.[[8]](#endnote-8)

The **Chinese Influence Transparency Act** prohibits state institutions of higher education from accepting funds from the People’s Republic of China.[[9]](#endnote-9)

The **College Finances Act** requires each public institution of higher education to post on the university website all budgets, expenditures, vendors, and contracts.[[10]](#endnote-10)

The **Universities Nondiscrimination Act** prohibits universities from discriminating by race, sex, or other group identity and prohibits discriminatory concepts in administrative trainings.[[11]](#endnote-11)

We also urge Kentucky lawmakers to inspect and consider our model legislation in our **Model K-12 Civics Code**,[[12]](#endnote-12) our **Model Education Licensure Code**,[[13]](#endnote-13) and our **Model Accreditation and Licensure Code**.[[14]](#endnote-14) We particularly urge Kentucky lawmakers to consider these four measures:

The **Partisanship Out of Civics Act** prevents teachers from giving credit to action civics in history, government, civics, or social studies. It also bars civics classes from using Critical Race Theory.[[15]](#endnote-15) This act informed Texas SB 3, which passed into law in 2021.[[16]](#endnote-16)

The **American Birthright Taskforce Act** creates a social studies task force to draft social studies standards based on *American Birthright: The Civics Alliance’s K-12 Social Studies Task Force*.[[17]](#endnote-17)

The **Education Licensure Nondiscrimination Act** depoliticizes education licensure.[[18]](#endnote-18)

The **Education Licensure Certificate Act** creates a simplified education licensure pathway, which requires students to take a number of undergraduate courses, focused on subject matter content, as well as a standardized test—and no other requirements.[[19]](#endnote-19)

We believe that higher education reform will be made most effective when it is accompanied by complementary reforms throughout the education system.

1. Model Higher Education Code, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/model-higher-education-code/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. School of Intellectual Freedom Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/school-of-intellectual-freedom-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Legislative language close to the final authorizing language in the Ohio Budget can be found in Ohio Senate Bill 117 (2023-2024), As Passed by the Senate, <https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/sb117/PS/02/sb117_02_PS?format=pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Ohio Senate Bill 83 (2023-2024), As Passed by the Senate, <https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_135/bills/sb83/PS/02/sb83_02_PS?format=pdf>. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Mission Statement Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/mission-statement-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Campus Intellectual Diversity Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/campus-intellectual-diversity-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Syllabus Transparency Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/syllabus-transparency-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. American History Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/higher-education-civics-reform/american-history-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. The Ohio legislation provides original legislative language as it draws upon the spirit of recommendations in Rachelle Peterson, Flora Yan, Ian Oxnevad, *After Confucius Institutes: China’s Enduring Influence on American Higher Education* (National Association of Scholars, 2022), <https://www.nas.org/reports/after-confucius-institutes>. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. College Finances Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/college-finances-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Universities Nondiscrimination Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/universities-nondiscrimination-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Model K-12 Civics Code, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/model-higher-education-code/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Model Education Licensure Code, National Association of Scholars, <https://www.nas.org/policy/model-education-licensure-code>. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Model Accreditation and Licensure Code, National Association of Scholars, <https://www.nas.org/model-accreditation-and-licensure-code>. [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. Partisanship Out of Civics Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/model-k-12-civics-code/partisanship-out-of-civics-act/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. Texas SB 3 (2021), <https://legiscan.com/TX/text/SB3/id/2431439/Texas-2021-SB3-Enrolled.html>. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. American Birthright Taskforce Act, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/american-birthright-taskforce-act/>.; American Birthright: The Civics Alliance’s Model K-12 Social Studies Standards, Civics Alliance, <https://civicsalliance.org/american-birthright/>. [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. Education Licensure Nondiscrimination Act, National Association of Scholars, <https://www.nas.org/policy/model-education-licensure-code/education-licensure-nondiscrimination-act>. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. Education Licensure Certificate Act, National Association of Scholars, <https://www.nas.org/policy/model-education-licensure-code/education-licensure-certificate-act>. [↑](#endnote-ref-19)