

**From:** alice nguyen

**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 9:51 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] It's never been clearer how important Ethnic Studies is

Dear Ethnic Studies Open Comment,

An enlightened populace begins with primary school education. The US primary school curricula is extremely narrow in terms of culture and history. This is painfully obvious even in casual conversation with any international student studying in the US; they demonstrate vast more knowledge of international AND US current events than their US peer. Students need comprehensive Ethnic Studies in their K-12 curriculum to build empathy, sense of community, understanding and broader knowledge of different cultures and histories around the world. It is imperative preparation for children growing up in world permeated by globalization trends. The CA Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) is structured around the core pillars developed by the founders of Ethnic Studies in 1969: American Indian studies, Africana/Black studies, Chicanx/Latinx studies, and Asian American studies. Following a decades-long tradition in higher education, the ESMC includes Arab American studies within Asian American studies.

Leading Asian American scholars, including the National Association of Asian American studies, have issued statements defending the inclusion of Arab American studies in the CA ESMC.

Ethnic Studies has been linked to increases in positive personal, academic, and social outcomes for students.

In the post-9/11 era, exacerbated by Trump's Muslim ban, Arab American students are desperately in need of curriculum that reflects their histories and current realities.

TURATH (Teaching Understanding and Representing Arabs Throughout History) is a 2020 report researched and written by the teenage members of Arab Youth Organizing (AYO). According to AYO's findings, more than 66% of the students surveyed said they received most of their information on Arabs and/or Muslims from the internet or television; only 2.3% learned about Arabs and/or Muslims at school.

Sincerely,  
alice nguyen