

**From:** Jennifer Terada  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:35 PM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies  
**Cc:** Superintendent; [emails redacted]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save Arab-American Studies

Instructional Quality Commission,

My name is Jennifer Terada and I am a resident of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. I am writing in support of the CA Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum (ESMC), including Arab American Studies. I've grown up in California and currently attend UC Berkeley. Knowing my university's struggle behind our historic Ethnic Studies Department, I am aware of the reservations you may have on this subject. However, it is beneficial for all students to have the opportunity to learn about different cultures, especially in a state as diverse as ours. K-12 students need ethnic studies education to build empathy, unity, and solidarity with each other.

Arab American Studies must be included within the rubric of American Studies. In this era of Islamophobia and xenophobia, it's important to also include West Asian American experiences in ESMC. 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. As a Japanese American student, I understand what it feels like to have my history barely touched upon throughout my K-12 education.

In this curriculum, the history and current struggles of Palestine must be included. It is not anti-semitic to defend human rights and include Palestinian history and current movements within ethnic studies. When revising school curriculum, I urge you to collaborate with Arab American scholars and Ethnic Studies practitioners. Help shape the lives of young Californians for the better.

Please include Arab American Studies in ESMC!

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Terada