

**From:** Becca Friedland

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 12:13 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies; Superintendent; [emails redacted]

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment in support of Arab American included in CA Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum

I am a public school teacher in California with five years of experience, and I know, with every fiber of my being, that Ethnic Studies is a necessary course for all students, and that Arab American studies must be a part of that curriculum.

As a Jewish person, I believe that the movement to erase Palestinian history and struggle for liberation is deeply unjust. The Zionist regime of Israel is founded on the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians, and the ongoing occupation is inhumane and cruel. We must not side with the Zionist Israeli regime and lobbyists here in the US, just because they are well funded and powerful, and claim anti-semitism whenever Palestinian freedom is brought up. We must stand on the correct side of history, which is fundamentally with those who would include Arab American studies in our Ethnic studies, including the history and struggles of the Palestinians.

Revisions to this curriculum must be made in collaboration with Arab American scholars and experts, or it defies the very ethos of having an ethnic studies curriculum at all.

Please heed these pleas and do what is morally just. Include all voices, all struggles, all histories. Do not exclude based on fear, division, and money. Our students depend on you to make the right decision in order to start building and creating a world free from systemic oppression. That starts here- with the stories we tell, and the stories we hide.

Please include Arab American studies in the Ethnic Studies curriculum. It is necessary and right.

Sincerely,  
Becca Friedland