

Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum May 2019 Draft

(Download and use to provide specific recommendations)

Include the chapter of the model curriculum, the page number, and line number(s) to ensure that the California Department of Education and Instructional Quality Commission can reference the content of the document when reviewing your comments. Please email this document as a Word document to ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov. You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov with any questions regarding this template or the public input process.

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
Chapter 4: Glossary and Bibliography		<p>Page 2, Lines 29-40</p> <p>If the whole point of this curriculum is to train students in seeing diverse perspectives in addition to using language that better represents the many peoples in our world, including the term “BDS” or “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions” as an official vocabulary term goes against that aim. It presents the Palestinian perspective as the only and established narrative and that of Israel as factually and uncontroversially that of an oppressor. That is not the case. BDS is a political movement and has no place in a required curriculum charged with inculcating and molding developing minds. It promotes intolerance and divisiveness, which go against the country’s tenets and the concept of “E Pluribus Unum.” It presents Israel as an apartheid state akin to the erstwhile South Africa, which is an opinion and not a fact. This does not present a balanced or factual view. The name of the course is “Ethnic Studies,” but nowhere does it present Jews as an ethnicity, minority, race, or a People, a People who have faced millennia of oppression or, in the case of this country, centuries worth of it in the form of redlining and quotas and employment discrimination and slurs. Moreover, Jews have lived in Israel for thousands of years. To claim otherwise and that Jews are colonialists who have randomly and inappropriately taken hold of the country is simply inaccurate and wrong. This is</p>

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		an inappropriate inclusion of a political issue into a curriculum that should responsibly expose students to facts. And if there is to be an inclusion of anything of this nature, it should be clear it is a political and controversial issue and that there are other sides to this. Never is the Israeli or Jewish perspective stated, and Jews, as mentioned, are never presented here as an ethnicity, which makes this inclusion Anti-Semitic rather than “Anti-Zionist.” Never is Anti-Semitism included as a term for a type of racism. That is a gross and offensive oversight and one that will misinform students and thereby catalyze further bigotry in the form of that Anti-Semitism. The whole point is to promote knowledge and tolerance: this proposed curriculum as is stands does neither and is thus dangerous.

California Department of Education, June 2019