

**From:** Eliza Hollingsworth

**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 9:14 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies

**Cc:** Superintendent; [email redacted]

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter in Support of Arab American Studies Curriculum in CA

Dear CA Dept. of Education,

My name is Eliza and I am a Jewish-American alumna of the Oakland Unified School District, and a current UC Berkeley undergraduate. I am writing in support of the CA Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum, that includes material on Arab American history and Palestinian history.

As a student at Oakland Technical High School, I was never taught about Arab history. I believe it would have been a huge benefit to my own and my peers' education to learn about Arab history in California, and Palestinian history in particular. Excluding Arab Americans from Ethnic Studies curricula is bigoted and short-sighted. Teaching Palestinian history is absolutely *not* antisemitic and to suggest so is ridiculous. Those who state that the ESMC is antisemitic do *not* speak for me or for the Jewish community. In order to provide children with a comprehensive education, students should explore Ethnic Studies in a nuanced way in K-12 schools. It's an opportunity I wish I had in my own education.

Respectfully,

Eliza Hollingsworth

Oakland Technical High School C/O 2017, UC Berkeley C/O 2021