

From: Karin Toranto

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 4:46 PM

To: Ethnic Studies <EthnicStudies@cde.ca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on ESMC draft

Hi - I'd like to make comments on the current Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum draft. Specifically, I request the following be part of any final curriculum:

1. A lesson plan on Jewish Americans that recognizes the diversity of the community including Ashkenazi, Sephardic, and Mizrahi Jews, as well as Jews of color. Additionally, lesson plans on Arab Americans should also refer to Jewish Americans of Middle Eastern and North African descent.
2. An accurate definition of antisemitism such as the one developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance that was adopted by the U.S. State Department in 2010.
3. Inclusion of lessons about antisemitism.

These three topics are not sufficiently included in the current draft and, on the contrary, the current draft actually includes an antisemitic bias. Any curriculum for CA public schools that is focused on ethnic studies that does not cover the Jewish culture in depth is a weak ethnic studies curriculum. Beyond this, it would be incredibly irresponsible and dangerous to promote any anti-semitic bias to California high school students, especially during these times when antisemitic beliefs and acts are on the rise.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Best - Karin Toranto

--

Karin Toranto

KT Marketing

858.336.2811

ktmarketing.co

karintoranto@gmail.com