

Below are my general comments about the **2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum**.

The curriculum, which by statute must be adaptable to 'reflect the pupil demographics' in school districts, focuses heavily on power structures and forms of oppression including white supremacy, sexism, classism, Islamophobia, transphobia -but excludes anti-Semitism. If Jewish bias receives only a passing mention during a discussion of intersectionality in a proposed course on Pacific Islander studies.

A 22-page glossary and bibliography has entries for Islamophobia and racism, but none for anti-Semitism. The draft curriculum effectively erases the Jewish American Experience, as the lawmakers wrote. '...despite the significant contributions of Jews to California's history, politics, culture, and government-and our community's longstanding struggle against hatred and discrimination.'

There is never hesitation in citing the history of Jews in any model of discrimination. From blatant acts of hate to subtle jokes, Jews have been terrorized by anti-Semitism throughout history; yet the authors of the proposed curriculum make no mention of the horrors against Jewish people.

Being only 2% of the American population, Jews certainly qualify as a minority. Are we being ignored because most of us are white? Regardless of whether we are born into Jewish families, far too many people choose not to identify as Jewish. Indeed there might be Jewish authors of this curriculum who refuse to recognize their own ancestry. Just a few months ago, eleven people were murdered by a self-proclaimed anti-Semite in a Pennsylvania synagogue. By excluding our young people from learning about how pervasive anti-Semitism still is, this curriculum does not serve its purpose.

I urge you to reflect on the significance of leaving the Jewish people out of this important curriculum. Please revise the curriculum to include my people.

Sincerely Yours,

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