

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.

Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Page 2 of 4

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
--	----------------------------------	---

Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Page 3 of 4

See Comments on General	<i>Avital Oliveau</i> <i>Hadassah</i>	<p>As a member of Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, I am deeply disturbed by the model curriculum currently being reviewed by The State of California, which openly promotes hateful boycotts against Israel and omits antisemitism as a form of bigotry. I am appalled that an educational effort meant to teach students about marginalized communities includes no lessons about Jews as a sizeable ethnic minority and frequent target of racism.</p> <p>‘The implementation of Ethnic Studies presents an opportunity for teachers to enable students to develop a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and inclusion, and aids in the eradication of bigotry, hate, and racism.’ Despite this stated goal, the curriculum does not feature a single lesson about the Jewish community, mentioning Jews only in passing.</p> <p>Glossary – includes a definition of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement against Israel. It claims the purpose of BDS is to “establish freedom for Palestinians living under apartheid conditions.” It then parrots more BDS talking points while offering no critical perspectives about this campaign of hate, which seeks to end Israel’s existence.</p> <p>Sample Lesson Plans</p> <p>Page 234 – Encourage teachers to highlight BDS and a pro-BDS group called Direct Action for Palestine, but no voices critical of their perspectives.</p> <p>Page 234 – Promotes a false equivalence between Israel’s efforts to stop terrorists from entering communities to murder innocent people, and U.S. policies on the border with Mexico</p> <p>Page 237 – Uses unclear language that implies “Israel-Palestine” as a whole is an Arab country</p> <p>Page 242 – Frames the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 War as fact, with no alternative perspectives.</p>
-------------------------------	--	---

Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Page 4 of 4

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
		<p>Page 256, 264-269 – Encourages teachers to use a poem featuring harsh criticism of Israel, but no content offering a positive perspective about Israel or criticism of Palestinian leaders.</p> <p>With antisemitism rising and ignorance about the Jewish people still a major problem in our society, the exclusion of Jews from this curriculum is deeply disappointing.</p> <p>As a California resident, taxpayer and voter, I would hope to see the State of California teaching inclusion and tolerance, rather than BDS, which promotes hate and division.</p>

California Department of Education, June 2019