

From: Ronna Shpall

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:20 PM

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Revise ethnic studies draft

Dear Committee on Ethnic Studies,

I am a California middle school social studies and ELD teacher of 35 years, and I have grandchildren in California schools. The current draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum needs to be revised for the following reasons:

1. Activities in this curriculum emphasize “white “dominant “culture” while disregarding the diversity among whites. It promotes racism instead of tolerance and advances anti white attitudes.
2. This draft promotes BDS, a one sided anti Israel movement, and some lessons encourage an anti-Jewish bias. It also ignores diversity among Jews.
3. This curriculum emphasizes some ethnic groups while excluding others.
4. The Guiding Values and Principles permit limited approaches to study ethnicities, a strategy that is in conflict with the California History-Social Science Framework.

Our students deserve to study ethnic groups factually and in a way that promotes understanding and appreciation of other cultures. This draft promotes divisiveness, racism, and victimization.

Ronna Shpall