



Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region

May 20, 2020

ESMC Advisory Committee
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Advisory Committee,

The Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region (ANCA-WR) reaffirms our support for the CA Ethnic Studies framework draft, with revisions and additions of the West Asian experience, specifically in relation to Armenian-Americans.

ANCA-WR strongly supports the intention to create a curriculum that “presents an opportunity for teachers to develop culturally/community relevant and responsive pedagogies that are both revitalizing and sustaining.” We welcome the drafters’ efforts to include, and urge further development on, more expansive definitions of West Asian American diasporan experiences, inclusive of peoples historically marginalized from California curricula, and United States scholarship writ large, such as Armenian-Americans.

Please know that we have a wealth of resources, materials, and talent in the field of Armenian-American Studies that can help with preparing units in this course of study that would give voice to the generations of families and their children who have long waited to have their stories told. Please feel free to call upon us. We stand ready to assist you as needed.

We look forward to contributing, supporting, and celebrating the outcome of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum in California’s public schools that truly represents the diversity of our State. We look forward to continued dialogue and welcome the draft’s expansion to include the realities of groups from the region using experts within the field of Ethnic Studies.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nora Hovsepian".

Nora Hovsepian, Esq.
Chair