



To :

9/19/19

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President of the California State Board of Education
Soomin Chao, Chair of the California Instructional Quality Commission
The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of the State of California

People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER) 's vision is a society where everyday people can shape their neighborhoods and economies. We organize with Latino immigrant families in San Francisco, CA, along with other low-income communities of color, to cultivate community rooted solutions that create a society where immigrant rights, social, racial, economic, and environmental justice are central to the world in which we live.

We are writing to express that ESMC is critical part of our vision to organize for communities that are environmentally and economically healthy. We urge you to do the right thing, and Save California Ethnic Studies, by prioritizing our broad coalition's three demands:

Save California Ethnic Studies - Our 3 Demands of the California Department of Education, in regards to the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC)

1. Keep the current ESMC draft, and with its defining focus on the histories and social justice struggles of communities of color—to remain as the core of the model curriculum, as the overall strong work it is within the context of Ethnic Studies. Within this, certain revisions may be made, which are part of the process by design.
2. Maintain the curricular framework—including its disciplinary knowledge, understandings, language, and pedagogy—and do not dilute its fidelity to the field of Ethnic Studies by converting it into non-equivalent fields, e.g., multicultural studies, diversity studies, or area studies.
3. Improve accountability, transparency, and consensus-building with members of communities of color who are Ethnic Studies expert practitioners (particularly the ES-MCAC)—including when making recommendations for ESMC edits, revisions, and major CDE public statements related to Ethnic Studies—throughout the entire model curriculum process and up until its completion and ratification.

Regards,

Jacqueline Gutierrez, Youth Programs Coordinator

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