

From: B Dass

Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 1:53 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Cc: Superintendent; [email redacted]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Include Arab American Studies in California Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Dear Commissioners:

It's never been clearer how important Ethnic Studies are. The racial disparities in the impact of Covid-19, the xenophobic targeting of Asian Americans as "vectors" of disease, and the national uprising in response to the murder of George Floyd point to the need for anti-racist education. All students need Ethnic Studies in their K-12 curriculum to build empathy, unity and solidarity with each other.

Ethnic Studies has been linked to increases in positive personal, academic, and social outcomes for students.

In the post-9/11 era, exacerbated by Trump's Muslim ban, Arab American students are desperately in need of curriculum that reflects their histories and current realities.

According to a 2020 report researched and written by the teenage members of Arab Youth Organizing (AYO), more than 66% of the students surveyed said they received most of their information on Arabs and/or Muslims from the internet or television. This is like learning about sexuality from pornography websites. Only 2.3% learned about Arabs and/or Muslims at school.

Please include Arab American Studies in the California Ethnic Studies Curriculum.

Thank you.

Jorge De Cecco

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