

**From:** Eve Hershcopf  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:06 PM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies  
**Cc:** Superintendent; [email redacted]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save Arab-American Studies

Dear Department of Education, Superintendent Thurmond and President Darling-Hammond,

I am writing in strong support of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC), and particularly for inclusion of Arab-American Studies in that curriculum. As a parent and a life-long supporter of public education, I recognize the importance of the ESMC for all students. The fact that I'm a Jewish woman should not make a difference, but because I'm aware that you're hearing from Jewish people who oppose the inclusion of Arab-American Studies I want to make it clear that they do not speak for me and for many other Jewish people who recognize the critical importance of including Arab-American Studies in the ESMC.

So many current issues highlight how crucial Ethnic Studies is to our country and our upcoming generations. 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, strengthening our movements for justice.

As you are well aware, the ESMC is structured around the core pillars developed by the founders of Ethnic Studies in 1969: American Indian studies, Africana/Black studies, Chicanx/Latinx studies, and Asian American studies. Following a decades-long tradition in higher education, the ESMC includes Arab American studies within Asian American studies. Leading Asian American scholars, including the Association of Asian American Studies, have issued statements supporting and defending the inclusion of Arab American studies in the California ESMC.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Eve Hershcopf  
Emeryville, CA