

From: Ysh Schwartz

Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 9:45 AM

To: Ethnic Studies

Cc: Superintendent; [emails redacted]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Another Jew Supporting Arab American Studies in the EMSC

Hello,

My name is Ysh Schwartz and I am a resident of Berkeley, CA. I am writing today to express my strong support of the current Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum, including Arab American Studies.

I urge you all to include Arab American studies in the EMSC, especially the history of Palestine and resistance of the Palestinian people. As a Jewish person, Israel does not speak for me or the Jewish people. Conflating Israel with Judaism is antisemitic. The Jewish people are not a monolith and there is a mass movement of Jewish people around the world who oppose the occupation and land theft of Palestine. My Jewish values and ancestors have taught me that our freedom as Jewish people can only come through solidarity, not through land theft and violent occupation.

Growing up in California public schools, my history as an Ashkenzai Jew was always taught, but I cannot say the same for my Palestinian friends. All history of violence and oppression should be taught, so that injustice can be fought by future generations and history cannot repeat itself. Please remember that the telling of one oppressed people's story does not erase another's, but rather emboldens them and unites us all against oppression.

As a young, Jewish, lifelong Californian, I urge you to support Arab American Studies in the EMSC - please stand on the right side of history!

Sincerely,
Ysh Schwartz
Berkeley, CA