

**From:** Ariana Khateeb

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 3:11 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies

**Cc:** Superintendent; [emails redacted]

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] INCLUDE ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES IN CA ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULUM

Hello,

As a former student that has been through the California public school system, the need for ESMC with the inclusion of Arab American studies. The youth are exposed to a presidency that is allowed to express inaccurate portraits of communities of people without major repercussions. Anti-racist education needs to become a central focus in the California, seen with the national uprisings in response to the murder of George Floyd and xenophobic language targeting the Asian American communities. Having Arab American studies, but the erasure of the Palestinian struggle will be counterproductive. Palestinians are actively experiencing and ethnic cleansing and any erasure or misinformation will apart of it. [TURATH](#) (Teaching Understanding and Representing Arabs Throughout History) is a 2020 report researched and written by the teenage members of Arab Youth Organizing (AYO). According to AYO's findings, more than 66% of the students surveyed said they received most of their information on Arabs and/or Muslims from the internet or television; only 2.3% learned about Arabs and/or Muslims at school. The need for this curriculum is essential to the identity forming among Arab American and Muslim youth in California; something my non Arab, non Muslim classmates, and I could have benefited from.

Ariana Khateeb