



Elazar R. Muskin  
Rabbi

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Ms. Soomin Chao  
Chair, Instructional Quality Commission  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Dear Ms. Chao,

We are writing on behalf of the Young Israel of Century City community, regarding California's Department of Education Instructional Quality Commission's proposed ethnic studies model curriculum.

As requested by your public comment form, we have concerns with the following content:

The glossary for the curriculum includes a definition of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement against Israel. It claims the purpose of BDS is to, "establish freedom for Palestinians living under apartheid conditions".

It then parrots more BDS talking points while offering no critical perspectives about this campaign of hate, which seeks to end Israel's existence.

This definition is not only entirely one-sided, but its inclusion elevates a fringe perspective against Israel into the mainstream and entirely politicizes the national origin of a major California community of Israeli-American immigrants. No other nation or national origin is subject to the same treatment in the model curriculum. Most disturbingly, the model curriculum's definition of BDS in its current form is akin to defining the Ku Klux Klan as a social movement that promotes free speech and free expression while ignoring the organization's racist underpinnings.

The sample lesson plans for the curriculum:

- Encourage teachers to highlight BDS and a pro-BDS group called Direct Action for Palestine, but no voices critical of their perspectives (p. 234).
- Promote a false equivalence between Israel's efforts to stop terrorists from entering communities to murder innocent people, and U.S. policies on the border with Mexico (p. 234).
- Use unclear language that implies "Israel-Palestine" as a whole is an Arab country (p. 237).
- Frame the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 War as fact, with no alternative perspectives (p. 242).

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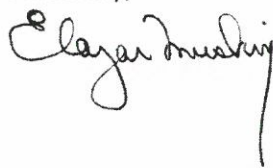
- Encourage teachers to use a poem featuring harsh criticism of Israel, but no content offering a positive perspective about Israel or criticism of Palestinian leaders (p. 256, 264-269).

The Introduction of the proposed curriculum states that, "The implementation of Ethnic Studies presents an opportunity for teachers to... enable students to develop a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and inclusion, and aids in the eradication of bigotry, hate, and racism." Despite this stated goal, the curriculum does not feature a single lesson about the Jewish community, mentioning Jews only in passing. With antisemitism rising, and ignorance about the Jewish people still a major problem in our society, the exclusion of Jews from this curriculum is deeply disappointing.

We respectfully request that the proposed ethnic studies curriculum take California's diverse communities and perspectives into account through a revision of the current model. Drawing from your own glossary, the "master narrative" advanced in the current model curriculum only serves to marginalize and disenfranchise California's immigrant population from Israel and this is not acceptable.

We also want to thank the California legislature, in particular, the California Legislative Jewish Caucus for their time and attention on this matter.

Sincerely,



Elazar Muskin, Rabbi



James Proops, Associate Rabbi

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303 Signatures in support of letter above concerning California's Department of Education Instructional Quality Commission's proposed ethnic studies model curriculum.

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Lawrence Adler      | 35 Jeffrey A. Finn    |
| 2 Shirley Aizenstein  | 36 Wendy Finn         |
| 3 Shia Altman         | 37 Marc Firestone     |
| 4 Mansoor Alyeshmerni | 38 Orly Fisch         |
| 5 Siona Alyeshmerni   | 39 Yvette Fishbein    |
| 6 Moshe Amster        | 40 Aaron Fishbein     |
| 7 Natalie Amster      | 41 Miriam Fisher      |
| 8 David Anson         | 42 Miriam Fisher      |
| 9 Jeff Astrof         | 43 David Frankel      |
| 10 Anna Baum M.D.     | 44 Valerie Frankel    |
| 11 Arline Berens      | 45 Eitan Geft         |
| 12 Ari Berenson       | 46 Dael Geft          |
| 13 Rachelle Berger    | 47 Ivor Geft          |
| 14 Mark Berger        | 48 Atara Geft         |
| 15 Michael Bernstein  | 49 Glynis Gerber      |
| 16 Ariana Bernstein   | 50 Selwyn Gerber      |
| 17 Keren Biton        | 51 Michal Gershov     |
| 18 Jacqueline Bocian  | 52 Gavriel Gershov    |
| 19 Robert Bocian      | 53 Ariella Gershov    |
| 20 Taube Brahms       | 54 David Gershov      |
| 21 Moshe Buchman      | 55 Eitan Gershov      |
| 22 Cary Buchman       | 56 Noam Gershov       |
| 23 Jenny Buchman      | 57 Max Gersht         |
| 24 Stephen Buxbaum    | 58 Boris Geyzer       |
| 25 Eric Cohn          | 59 Pinchas Giller     |
| 26 Lawrence Dardick   | 60 Barbara Gindi      |
| 27 Richard Dinets     | 61 Greg Gitler        |
| 28 Elissa Dinets      | 62 Naomi Gitler       |
| 29 Boris Dorfman      | 63 Nancy Gofman       |
| 30 Boris Dorfman      | 64 Jacob Gofman       |
| 31 Chani Eisenberg    | 65 Aryeh Goldberg     |
| 32 Steven Eisenberg   | 66 Judy Goldberg      |
| 33 Joel Epstein       | 67 Mark Goldenberg    |
| 34 Harry Finkel       | 68 Deborah Goldenberg |



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|-----|----------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 69  | Tracey Goldstein     | 109 | Shaili Jalali         |
| 70  | Joey Goldstein       | 110 | Molly Jalali          |
| 71  | Emanuel Gottlieb     | 111 | Rebekah Jalali        |
| 72  | Susan Graysen, Ph.D. | 112 | Joel Jesin            |
| 73  | John Grossman        | 113 | Mark Kahan            |
| 74  | Rivka Grossman       | 114 | Marlene Kahan         |
| 75  | Randi Grossman       | 115 | Avraham Kaminker      |
| 76  | Yaakov Hagay         | 116 | Ronald Kaminker       |
| 77  | Maayan Hagay         | 117 | Rochelle Kaminker     |
| 78  | Nigel Hamer          | 118 | Kaila Rachel Kaminker |
| 79  | Traci Hamer          | 119 | Judith Kandel         |
| 80  | Malkie Hametz        | 120 | Aryeh Kaplan          |
| 81  | Tzvi Hametz          | 121 | Ronit Karben          |
| 82  | Gil Harel            | 122 | Alan Karben           |
| 83  | Yarden Harel         | 123 | Batsheva Kasdan       |
| 84  | Iris Harel           | 124 | Sheldon Kasdan        |
| 85  | Jacob Hausman        | 125 | ZACHARY KATZ          |
| 86  | Ellen Hausman        | 126 | Noah Katz             |
| 87  | Shani Hebron         | 127 | Alicia Katz           |
| 88  | David Herskovitz     | 128 | Phyllis Katzin        |
| 89  | Dodie Herskovitz     | 129 | David Katzin          |
| 90  | Ahuva Hirschberg     | 130 | Joseph Kempe          |
| 91  | Josh Honig           | 131 | Revital Kempe         |
| 92  | Richard Horowitz     | 132 | Ezra Kest             |
| 93  | Beverly Horowitz     | 133 | Lauren KEST           |
| 94  | Mark Hyman           | 134 | Nayerreh Khankhanian  |
| 95  | Yaacov Isaacs        | 135 | Matthew Kinsbursky    |
| 96  | Yaacov Isaacs        | 136 | Jenna Kinsbursky      |
| 97  | Rayme Isaacs         | 137 | Nillie Kiss           |
| 98  | Eli Isaacs           | 138 | Ben Kiss              |
| 99  | Yair Isaacs          | 139 | Brian Kleinman        |
| 100 | Jerrold Isenberg     | 140 | Amanda Kohanchi       |
| 101 | Rina Isenberg        | 141 | Houman Kohanchi       |
| 102 | Madeleine Isenberg   | 142 | Joseph Kornwasser     |
| 103 | Sherwin Isenberg MD  | 143 | Hana Kornwasser       |
| 104 | Allen Ishakis        | 144 | Steve Kreitenberg     |
| 105 | Benjamin Jacobowitz  | 145 | Rena Kreitenberg      |
| 106 | Ellen Jacobowitz     | 146 | Scott Krieger         |
| 107 | Renae Jacobs         | 147 | Meira Kunosi          |
| 108 | Adina Jalali         | 148 | Arlene Kupietzky      |

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149	Moshe Kupietzky	189	David Novak
150	Esther Levine	190	Isabelle Novak
151	Craig Levine	191	Olga Olshansky
152	Howard Levkowitz	192	Isaac Orenbuch
153	Elayne Levkowitz	193	Leora Orenbuch
154	Samuel Levy	194	Marvin Pietruszka, M.D.
155	Rivky Levy	195	Honey Pietruszka, Psy.D
156	Adam Lewis	196	Arthur Platt
157	Rachel Lewis	197	Shirley Platt
158	Jennie Lewkowicz	198	Yafa Platt
159	Michael Loboda	199	Josh Platt
160	Shervin Louie	200	Richard Polak
161	Yasmine Louie	201	Lisa Polak
162	Jack Lustman	202	Tania Pollack
163	Marla Lustman	203	Joshua Pollack
164	David Mahler	204	Ezra Pollak
165	Robert Malekan	205	Jennifer Pollak
166	Eliana Marcus	206	Aliza Pollak
167	Jeffrey Marcus	207	Naomi Pollak
168	Rivki Mark	208	Naomi Prero
169	Sam Mark	209	Dovi Prero
170	Brad Markoff	210	Joan Presby
171	Marilyn Markoff	211	Ilan Reiner
172	Rachel Mazouz	212	Marci Reiss
173	Michel Mazouz	213	Akiva Reiss
174	Sharon Meir	214	Jonny Ritz
175	Louis Michelson	215	Amy Ritz
176	FRANCES MILLER	216	Linda Rohatiner
177	Stuart Miller	217	Jeffrey Rohatiner
178	Lauren Mintz	218	Robert Rosenberg
179	Shawni Modrell-Astrof	219	Madeleine Rosenberg
180	Debra Mund	220	Stephen Ross
181	Scott Mund	221	Rachel Ross
182	Ronald Nagel	222	Mildred Rothschild
183	Cheryl Nagel	223	Allan Sass
184	Ayala Naor	224	Evelyn Sass
185	Mordechai Naor	225	Dr. Joseph Schames
186	Naphtali Nektalov	226	Debbie Schames
187	Leora Nektalov	227	June Schames
188	Barry Novack	228	Brian Schames



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229	Anna Schiff	267	Tamar Sufrin
230	Mark Schiff	268	Karen Sugar
231	Nancy Schiff	269	Abby Symonds
232	Fred Schlesinger	270	Howard Szabo
233	Arnold Schlesinger	271	Mikey Szabo
234	Sheri Schlesinger	272	Helen Szabo
235	Jonathan Schoen	273	Alex Sztuden
236	Brigitte Schoen	274	Eva Tashman
237	Joseph Schwartz	275	Fred Toczek
238	Brenda Schwartz	276	Lindsay Turk
239	Joseph Segal	277	Steven Usdan
240	Keren Segal	278	Emanuel Wasserman
241	Mark Shainberg	279	Marsha Wasserman
242	Nina Shapiro	280	Richard Weiner
243	Neal Shapiro	281	Linda Weiner
244	Jeremy Shelton	282	David N. Weiss
245	Sara Shelton	283	Sam Weissman
246	Ronnie Sieger	284	Ruby Weissman
247	Morris Sikver	285	Ilana Wernick
248	Sharon Silver	286	Zach Wertheimer
249	Steven Silver	287	Jordana Wertheimer
250	Robin Silver	288	Sahar Wertheimer
251	Freda Small	289	Lisa Wiener
252	Sanford Small	290	Daniel Wintner
253	Judith Smith	291	Phillip Wintner
254	Samuel Smith	292	Chavi Wintner
255	Yehuda Solomon	293	Jennifer Wintner
256	Naomi Solomon	294	Koren Wizenfeld
257	Behrouz Soroudi	295	Aaron Wizenfeld
258	Joshua Spodek	296	Natalie Wizman
259	Tova Spodek	297	Laura Young
260	Jacob Stark	298	David Young
261	Nira Stark	299	Aric Zamel
262	Peter Steinlauf	300	Sabrina Zamel
263	Liz Steinlauf	301	Sarah Zarabi
264	Aric Streit	302	Neda Zarabi
265	Mary Streit	303	Sivan Zuzan
266	Arye Sufrin		