

Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum May 2019 Draft

(Download and use to provide specific recommendations)

Include the chapter of the model curriculum, the page number, and line number(s) to ensure that the California Department of Education and Instructional Quality Commission can reference the content of the document when reviewing your comments. Please email this document as a Word document to ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov. You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov with any questions regarding this template or the public input process.

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
General	<i>Ealon Joelson, MD</i> <i>Concerned citizen</i>	see below

California Department of Education, June 2019

I am a taxpayer in California, with an unbroken line of public education from the time I entered kindergarten until the time I graduated medical school. I had always considered my exemplary education to be a reflection of the quality of instruction promoted by the public school system of this State. For that reason, I am chagrined to learn of the content in the proposed, new ethnic studies curriculum (ESMC). Specifically, it has come to my attention that the significant contribution of Jews to the development of this State, and our country generally, has been minimized in the new curriculum. Moreover, while it is currently fashionable to detail insults various ethnic groups have suffered over time, what is known as “the oldest hatred” (anti-Semitism) is ignored. Making matters worse, within the proposed curriculum there is overt support of the BDS movement, which seeks to demonize Jews living in their ancestral homeland (Israel), thereby castigating Jews in pursuit of their right to self-determination. For some reason your curriculum sees only one group as not having that human right- the Jews. Just for perspective, the German

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Government has determined that BDS is anti-Semitic in nature (and I assume they know it when they see it), and likewise many State legislatures- including California's- have passed bills prohibiting state business activity with firms participating in BDS. So in effect your unbalanced curriculum fails in two important respects as it relates to the Jewish nation. On the one hand it does not explain the role anti-Semitism has played in Western and Middle-Eastern societies, and at the same time promotes anti-Semitism as it relates to vilification of Jews who have successfully created the only known bulwark against anti-Semitism: Jewish independence in their national homeland. I urge you not to fall prey to short-sighted individuals who have allowed the ESMC to have been co-opted by those who have a political agenda that targets Jews. I do not think this is the lesson that Californians expect their future leaders to be taught within our public school system.