

August 23, 2019

Honorable Mr. Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
P.O.B. 2145
Richmond, CA
94802

Dear Mr. Thurmond:

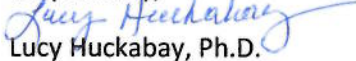
With great interest I read the article on "Education: Back lash spurs change to ethnic studies plan" that was published in the **Daily News** newspaper on Thursday, August 15, 2019, pages 1 and 13.

The issue with ethnic studies courses at the high school or middle school levels, and even at the college level is the criteria one uses to determine which cultures or ethnic groups should be included. Additionally, how does one control for the biases that get introduced by the teachers' own ethnicity during instruction?

Instead, I would recommend a course in "CIVICS" be taught, where important concepts that transcend all cultures and ethnicities be taught at different levels of depth depending upon the students' educational level. These concepts could include civility; integrity; equality; justice; responsibility; accountability; altruism; citizenship; honesty; respect for humans irrespective of age, nationality, ethnicity and color; respect for animals, properties and the environment. I would also recommend that the primary learning experience, especially for middle and high school students, be homework assignments where each of these core values are addressed in weekly essays.

This is one of the most effective ways by which students will internalize these core values of life!

Respectfully,


Lucy Huckabay, Ph.D.

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State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

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