



January 18, 2021

State Board of Education  
c/o California Department of Education  
Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division  
1430 N Street, Suite 3207  
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 21, 2021

Dear State Board of Education,

I write to convey my support for the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association (APISBMA) in its request for revisions to the final draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) to be presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) in March 2021.

The desired revisions which are focused on usability, accessibility, and equity are as follows:

1. The "Asian Americans and the Model Minority Myth" Lesson, Sample Lesson #31 in Appendix A, should be listed as the first sample lesson in the AAPI unit and be rewritten to remove stereotypes and to incorporate reflection based on analyzing data.
2. Language should be added to Chapter 3: Instructional Guidance for K-12 Education to frame "Asian Americans and the Model Minority Myth" as a foundational lesson to the AAPI Unit and as an indispensable component of any Ethnic Studies course.
3. In the AAPI Unit, the pan-Asian lesson plans should be listed first, followed by one lesson plan per ethnic group in alphabetical order, and concluding with an additional resources section for groups with more than one lesson plan. Groups with more than one lesson plan should provide input on which lesson plan is foundational for their group.
4. Appendix A should be reclassified as "Chapter 4" in the ESMC and "Chapter 4: Bibliography" should be reclassified as "Chapter 5: Bibliography" Appendices A and B (formerly Appendices B and C). The lesson plans must be highlighted as core content for educators to build Ethnic Studies courses, not as supporting content in an Appendix.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander population is highly diverse remains one of the least covered populations in American education. These recommendations are a good starting point in the larger effort to be more inclusionary in the development of our public school curricula, a project for which our Center is in full support of.

“Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies” is an indispensable asset to the teaching of Ethnic Studies. We join local, statewide, and national organizations in support of the final approval of the ESMC; with these edits to the AAPI Unit and to the ESMC in general, we believe California students will soon experience a curriculum that better represents the diversity of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Umemoto", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen Umemoto

Helen and Morgan Chu Chair and Director, Asian American Studies Center  
Professor, Departments of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies  
kumemoto@ucla.edu