

[CDE NOTE: The CDE received 7 copies of the email below, sent to different individuals.]

From: Priya Prabhakar

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:12 PM

To: [email redacted]

Cc: [emails redacted]; Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote YES on Students First! From a concerned resident

Dear Ms. London,

I urge you to put "Students First" by supporting the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum led by scholars of color from across California. Oakland is exactly the kind of city that should stand up for our underrepresented communities.

Ethnic Studies has always been about empowering students of color who are marginalized and minimized by our curriculum. We need to bring this conversation back to the focus of Students First, one of our Core OUSD Values. Our white students greatly benefit from having these critical conversations about race, so that all Oaklanders can build skills to navigate our society and build stronger communities and neighborhoods.

Ethnic Studies is important to me because these curriculums have been developed through histories of scholarship that center resistance to the oppressive structures we see in our world today. We should be equipping students with the power of histories that center of the marginalized as their stories have repeatedly been wiped out of consciousness. As someone on the Board of Education, you have a duty to make sure you are putting in all the effort you can to represent the underrepresented, especially in the education systems of Oakland.

This controversy is a perfect example of why we must have these conversations to address racial tensions in our community, so that we can move toward healing, understanding, and solidarity across all of our cultures.

Please vote YES, thank you!

Priya Prabhakar
Resident of San Francisco