

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>Rabbi Dr. Laurence Milder Congregation Beth Emek Pleasanton, CA</i>	<p>I commend the state for implementing an ethnic studies curriculum. An essential part of that curriculum should be the role of Jews in California's history and the place of the Jewish community as part of California's cultural diversity. The absence of attention to the Jewish community is a shortcoming of the curriculum.</p> <p>I am disappointed to learn that anti-Semitism will not be given due attention, alongside other forms of bigotry about which students should be educated.</p>
		<p>Page 242, line 5160:</p> <p>I object to an unfair, unbalanced portrayal of the State of Israel. Descriptions of Israel as engaging in apartheid, and describing its founding as a catastrophe, are politically biased judgments. They fail to explore the significance of Israeli statehood as a national liberation movement of the Jewish people, vital to the security of Jews, and a direct response to centuries of persecution and genocide against Jews. That understanding is essential, if Israel is to be discussed in an ethnic studies curriculum.</p>
		<p>Page 269, line 5803</p> <p>The depiction of Jews controlling the press is a blatantly anti-Semitic trope, and has no place in promoting understanding of diversity and combatting bigotry.</p>

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California Department of Education, June 2019