

From: Monica G RAMSY
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Cc: Superintendent; [email redacted]; AROC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submitting a public comment to the IQC

Dear IQC members,

I hope this message finds you well. I write to you as an Arab-American, a graduate of a California high school, and a current member of the Bay Area community. I urge you to support the CA Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum (ESMC) and its proposed Arab American Studies curriculum.

As I write this email, the importance of Ethnic Studies has never been clearer. The racial disparities evident in the impact of Covid-19, the xenophobic targeting of Asian Americans as “vectors” of disease, and the national uprising in response to the murder of George Floyd all point to the need for anti-racist education. All students need Ethnic Studies in their K-12 curriculum to build empathy, unity and solidarity with each other, and to strengthen our movements for justice.

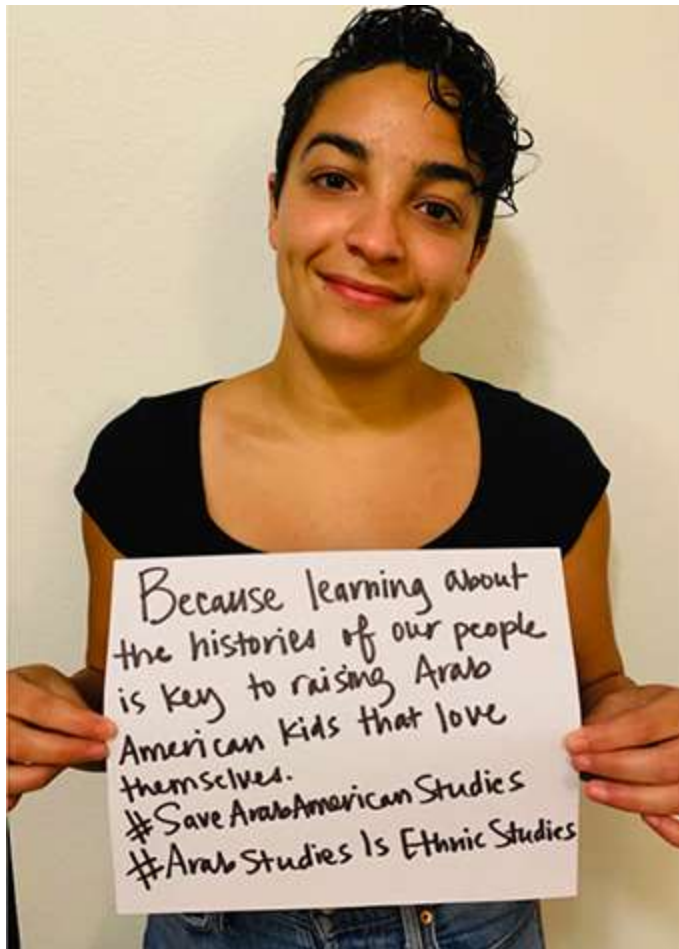
The ESMC is structured around the core pillars developed by the founders of Ethnic Studies in 1969: American Indian Studies, Africana/Black Studies, Chicanx/Latinx Studies, and Asian American Studies. Following a decades-long tradition in higher education, the ESMC includes Arab American Studies within Asian American Studies. Leading Asian American scholars, including the National Association of Asian American studies, have issued statements defending the inclusion of Arab American Studies in the CA ESMC.

Ethnic Studies has been linked to increases in positive personal, academic, and social outcomes for students. In the post-9/11 era, exacerbated by Trump’s Muslim ban, Arab American students are desperately [in need of a curriculum](#) that reflects their histories and current realities.

[TURATH](#) (Teaching Understanding and Representing Arabs Throughout History) is a 2020 report researched and written by the teenage members of Arab Youth Organizing (AYO). According to AYO’s findings, more than 66% of the students surveyed said they received most of their information on Arabs and/or Muslims from the internet or television; only 2.3% learned about Arabs and/or Muslims at school.

The time for an Ethnic Studies curriculum that is inclusive of Arab American Studies is now; the place is California. I urge you to support the ESMC and its proposed Arab American Studies curriculum.

In community,
Monica



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Monica Ramsy
she/her/hers

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