

From: KS Peters

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:07 PM

To: [email redacted]

Cc: [emails redacted]; Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum!

Dear Director Yee,

I am a parent of a preschool student who will be attending an OUSD elementary school in coming years. I am also a high school teacher who formerly taught Ethnic Studies in OUSD. 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 students greatly benefit from having these critical, honest conversations about race, so that all Oaklanders can build skills to navigate our society and build stronger communities and neighborhoods.

Ethnic Studies, and more specifically Arab American Studies, is important to me because as a White person raising a child that will be attending OUSD, it is extremely important to me that she gets an education that teaches clearly and succinctly about race and racism in this country. I don't want her to learn a whitewashed version of history. More specifically, as a mother to a child who is half-Jewish, it is extremely important to me that my kid learns about Arab culture that is not riddled with subtle islamophobia, as curriculum can often unintentionally be.

This controversy is a perfect example of why we need Ethnic Studies taught in its entirety and 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 on the resolution to support Ethnic Studies that includes ALL parts of this field. Thank you!

Kaedan Peters
Parent, District 4