

**From:** Rana Salem

**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 6:39 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies <EthnicStudies@cde.ca.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment

Dear Instruction Quality control commission,

My name is Rana Salem and I'm a 12th grade Arab student at Balboa High in San Francisco, CA. I am emailing to affirm that Arab American studies should remain under Asian-American ethnic studies, and should not be in the appendix.

I feel seen for the first time by this decision. As an Arab youth, when I first heard that we were going to be included, I felt relieved. I truly believe that this is the first step in combatting the racism, orientalism, and Islamophobia that exist in our society.

Please reconsider this decision, and incorporate the demands which are:

- Include the Arab American lesson plan submitted to the California Department of Education by members of the original Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) advisory committee.
- Re-insert Arab American studies in its rightful place—within Asian American studies.
- Align all lesson plans to the guiding principles of ethnic studies, which are anti-racist, decolonial and liberatory.
- Reject debunked definitions of antisemitism that equate criticism of Israel with antisemitism.

Best,

Rana Salem