

From: Caitlin H

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:38 PM

To: [email redacted]

Cc: [emails redacted]; Gary Yee; Jumoke HintonHodge; Aimee Eng; Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save CA Ethnic Studies

Dear School Board Members,

I write to ask for your support of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Draft written by teachers and scholars from across California. Your support would mean the world to me. I am a fourth generation Oaklander and attended Oakland public schools. Unfortunately, I did not learn this important history until college and missed out on having a more in-depth understanding of myself, my community and the world around me. 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. White students like me 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, and especially hearing the range of experiences and stories within the different ethnic identities, is important to me because without it we do not have the deep and rich historical and cultural understanding of our country. And without that, we are doomed to a cycle of inequity and disconnection as human beings.

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!
Caitlin Healy
Educator and Parent
District 1 Resident