

Burke MJ9 5



# MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

1111 LAS GALLINAS AVENUE/P.O. BOX 4925  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94913-4925  
marincoe@marinschools.org

MARY JANE BURKE  
MARIN COUNTY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

(415) 472-4110  
FAX (415) 491-6625

October 20, 2020

State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction

Ms. Dorothea Dorenz  
1200 Neilson Street  
Berkeley, CA 94706

Dear Dorothea,

Thank you for calling to my attention your communication to Superintendent Tony Thurmond. I would like to share with you the collaborative work that has begun in Marin with all our high school districts: Tamalpais, Novato, San Rafael, and Shoreline.

We first gathered the Superintendents to determine the desire to develop an inclusive Ethnic Studies course for all high school students as outlined in AB 331. In addition to the four major groups mentioned in the legislation; Native American, Mexican American, African American, and Asian American, the local option will be added for Marin schools as we address Anti-Semitism and intend to include this topic in the course outline that is in process of development.

Our first meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020, for curriculum and instruction experts to come together to develop strategies and a timeline for the work that will occur during the 2020-21 school year. We are reviewing the instructional materials recommended by Ant-Defamation League, with particular focus on their recommendation of "No Place for Hate Framework". Additionally, there is a local advocacy group that made the exact same recommendation you did to include the international definition of antisemitism. This group is a represents parents, community members, and leaders who we have been communicating with me during the past two months. We are encouraged to have representatives in Marin to share their voice and input.

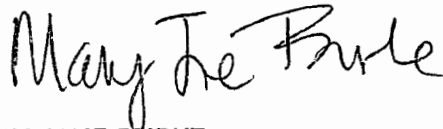
We will be developing a formal timeline when we meet on October 20, 2020. Each district is very interested in collaborating, sharing what already is occurring, and determining how they will move forward in their individual districts, to implement AB 331 as a graduation requirement for 2029-30 as outlined in the legislation.

BUILDING THE FUTURE . . . ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate in Marin that collaboration, partnership, and promoting equity are common agreements regarding, who we are, what we stand for, and how we act.

Thanks for your communication and advocacy in promoting social justice, equity, and elimination of implicit bias as outlined in your communication to Superintendent Thurmond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jane Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

MARY JANE BURKE  
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

cc: Tony Thurmond, CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction