

## Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum May 2019 Draft

(Download and use to provide specific recommendations)

Include the chapter of the model curriculum, the page number, and line number(s) to ensure that the California Department of Education and Instructional Quality Commission can reference the content of the document when reviewing your comments. Please email this document as a Word document to [ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov). You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at [kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov](mailto:kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov) with any questions regarding this template or the public input process.

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
General	<i>Amina Foda, Doctoral student in Clinical Psychology</i>	<p><i>I support the inclusion of Arab American studies as part of the ethnic studies curriculum in California. As referenced on <b>page 1</b>, Arabs and Pacific Islanders are particularly marginalized communities that are not well represented in current course offerings. I am Arab American and grew up in the California public education system from kindergarten through college, I never learned about my community or heritage in school nor barely had the opportunity to seek it myself because courses were barely available. This not only impacted my own development but it also created countless opportunities for microaggressions and disproportionate stress and burden as a minority student in post 9/11 America. Representation and informed teachers would have made a tremendous impact.</i></p> <p><i>I support the objectives listed on <b>page 233</b> which clearly outline the benefits of teaching the diverse history of Arabs and Arab Americans as a way to challenge xenophobia and discrimination and to create a welcoming environment for marginalized students.</i></p> <p><i>Including a history of migration to the US (<b>page 236</b>) is necessary for any marginalized community, and in particular for Arab Americans at this time. Teaching this history will help create a bridge between migrant communities and celebrate a rich history of a growing population.</i></p>