

State Board of Education
c/o California Department of Education
Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division
1430 N Street, Suite 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 19, 2021

Dear State Board of Education,

The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) supports the Asian Pacific Islander School Board Members Association (APISBMA) request for revisions to the final draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) to be presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) in March 2021.

The desired revisions which are focused on usability, accessibility, and equity are as follows:

1. The “Asian Americans and the Model Minority Myth” Lesson, Sample Lesson #31 in Appendix A, should be listed as the first sample lesson in the AAPI unit and be rewritten to remove stereotypes and to incorporate reflection based on analyzing data.
2. Language should be added to Chapter 3: Instructional Guidance for K-12 Education to frame “Asian Americans and the Model Minority Myth” as a foundational lesson to the AAPI Unit and as an indispensable component of any Ethnic Studies course.
3. In the AAPI Unit, the pan-Asian lesson plans should be listed first, followed by one lesson plan per ethnic group in alphabetical order, and concluding with an additional resources section for groups with more than one lesson plan. Groups with more than one lesson plan should provide input on which lesson plan is foundational for their group.
4. Appendix A should be reclassified as "Chapter 4" in the ESMC and "Chapter 4: Bibliography" should be reclassified as "Chapter 5: Bibliography" Appendices A and B (formerly Appendices B and C). The lesson plans must be highlighted as core content for educators to build Ethnic Studies courses, not as supporting content in an Appendix.

Since its incorporation in 1985, JANM has been committed to promoting an understanding and appreciation of America’s ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience. Education is at the heart of our mission and we have always prioritized our work with students and teachers. We are proud recipients of the *2020 Superintendent’s Award for Excellence in Museum Education* for our School Visits Program from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and we look forward to continuing to work with California educators to share our community’s important and unique history.



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“Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies” is an indispensable asset to the teaching of Ethnic Studies. We join local, statewide, and national organizations in support of the final approval of the ESMC; with these edits to the AAPI Unit and to the ESMC in general, we believe California students will soon experience a curriculum that better represents the diversity of our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ann Burroughs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" and last name "Burroughs" clearly distinguishable.

Ann Burroughs
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President and CEO
Japanese American National Museum