

**From:** molly.freeman= **On Behalf Of** Prof. Molly Freeman  
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 11:30 AM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies <EthnicStudies@cde.ca.gov>; [emails redacted]  
**Cc:** [emails redacted]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Remove Political Agenda from CA Ethnic Studies

Dear Members of the Instructional Quality Commission, State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, and Governor Gavin Newsom,

I write to urge you to embrace a curriculum that focuses on the 21st century learning capacities of collaboration, critical thinking and complex problem solving, creativity and social emotional intelligence, among others in order to promote respect and understanding across the rich tapestry of ethnic groups in these United States. Let us learn to celebrate diversity without rigid ideologies.

I write to you with deep concern about the current draft of the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) and to express my support for the detailed revision requests recently sent to you by the Alliance for Constructive Ethnic Studies.

I join in urging you to remove the political agenda from the "Guiding Values and Principles" and resulting lessons by:

1. Removing the inflammatory "Guiding Values," which promote radical ideological aims such as "transformative post-imperial resistance," and can be used to justify bringing hate and political dogma into the classroom.
2. Aligning all lessons only to the impartial Outcomes, and identify those Outcomes as "Guiding Principles and Outcomes."
3. Adding the Los Angeles Unified School District's Elements of a Balanced Curriculum as guidelines against politicizing Ethnic Studies classes.
4. Excluding the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement and other one-sided political conversations about Middle Eastern conflicts, which do not belong in California Ethnic Studies and create unsafe classrooms for students.

5. Incorporating approaches to social change from a wide range of political orientations, including methods that work within the US system to improve it.

Thank you for your attention to these crucial problems in the ESMC.

Sincerely,  
Molly Freeman, PhD  
Faculty, School of Education  
Mills College,

Prof. Molly Freeman

Berkeley