

From: Adriana Villegas
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:26 PM
To: [emails redacted]
Cc: [emails redacted]; Ethnic Studies; Superintendent
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support to Save Ethnic Studies @ OUSD!

Dear Oakland Board Members,

I urge you to put “Students First” by supporting the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum led by scholars of color from across California. 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. Our white students 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.

Pacific Islander/Arab American/Central American Studies is important to me because they are my friends. They are my community. We should not be having to fight for the right to learn about the people we see and care about. We want to learn and understand their history and vice versa. Ethnic studies brings our community closer in appreciating what we’ve been through and celebrating the success together. We want curriculum that is relevant to our lives and experiences.

This controversy is a perfect example of why we need Ethnic Studies and 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!
Adriana Villegas
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