

Committees:

Chair

Personnel & Animal Welfare

Vice Chair

Energy, Climate Change &
Environmental Justice
Ad Hoc Committee on Police
Reform

Member

Budget and Finance
Transportation

Website: <http://cd5.lacity.org>

Email: Paul.Koretz@lacity.org



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, Fifth District

City Hall Office:

200 N. Spring Street
Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7005
(213) 978-2250 Fax

Valley Office:

15760 Ventura Blvd.
Suite 600
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 971-3088
(818) 788-9210 Fax

West L.A. Office:

6380 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90048
(323) 866-1828
(323) 852-1129 Fax

November 18, 2020

Instructional Quality Commission
c/o California Department of Education
Curriculum Frameworks & Instructional Resources Division
1430 N Street, Suite 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: iqc@cde.ca.gov

I am writing to ask that the board of Instructional Quality Commission make necessary revisions to the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum to include the “Antisemitism and Middle Eastern Jewish Americans” lesson in the Model Curriculum.

California’s State Board of Education’s rules require the state’s curricula to portray people proportionately and not discriminate in favor of or against nationalities, races, ethnicities, and religions. Therefore, Middle Eastern Jewish Americans and Arab Americans should be treated equally and placed in the curriculum’s Asian American Section.

I strongly support adding the “Antisemitism and Middle Eastern-American Jews” lesson because it addresses antisemitism, which continues to be the 3rd most prevalent ethnic-based and the most prevalent religious-based hate crime in California, according to government statistics, up a disturbing 72% since 2016.

Ethnic Studies includes the study of “forms of bigotry including antisemitism” according to the Preface of the model curriculum draft you approved in August. Included in this lesson is an accurate definition of antisemitism, the one most widely used around the world by Jewish rights organizations and both the US Democratic (Obama administration) and Republican administrations’ State Departments.

Instructional Quality Commission

November 18, 2020

Page Two

I am deeply concerned that without adequate safeguards, the discussions in these classrooms could morph into one-sided political advocacy and activism that will both subvert the academic mission of the university, and incite bigotry and harm against students.

Please include Middle Eastern American lessons in full so they won't be overlooked. Simply sharing them via a link to a webpage is not enough. Superintendent Thurmond shared his hopes for this curriculum in his November 6 press conference: "as we talk about the rise of white supremacy, we must talk about the increase in hate acts and bigotry against the Jewish community, the high level of anti-Semitism that we see." I hope you will agree how important this inclusion is.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Koretz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District