

**From:** Malek Najjar  
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 10:52 AM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies; Superintendent;  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Arab American Ethnic Studies

To The Instructional Quality Commission, California Superintendent for Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, California Board of Education Linda Darling-Hammond:

I am writing to ask that you reconsider placing Arab American Studies in the appendix of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). By doing so will relegate Arab American Studies as a footnote to American history when its rightful place within Asian American Studies (the so-called "Middle East" is in Southwest Asia). Also you should consider aligning all lesson plans to your guiding principles of ethnic studies, which are anti-racist, decolonial, and liberatory in nature. We reject the notion that Arab American Studies is anti-Semitic. Arabs are Semites. Also, criticism of the Israeli government should not be conflated with anti-Semitism.

Please reconsider what you are doing. Arab Americans comprise a large part of California's rich cultural mosaic and have contributed to the state for decades. They deserve a rightful place in the curriculum. You know this to be true.

With Respect,

Michael Malek Najjar, PhD, MFA

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