

The California Department of Education received more than 1100 submissions that contained the text below. Other identical comments may have been posted separately.

From: Noah Bareket

Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:45 AM

To: [emails redacted]; Tony Thurmond; Ethnic Studies

Cc: [emails redacted]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Remove One-Sided Political Agenda from ESMC

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 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,

Noah Bareket
Saratoga resident