

From: timoteo jeffries
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Ethnic Studies
Cc: [email redacted]; Superintendent
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Arab American Studies

I write you to offer my thoughts and comments on the upcoming decisions by the Instructional Quality Commission regarding the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum for the coming school year.

I understand there is a well-heeled, concerted and coordinated campaign to not allow Arab American Studies as part of the ESMC. This is a true shame, and reflects the power of the long-time, ultra-right imperial forces in the Middle East--and in the US--unfortunately continue to yield to insure their hegemony over the lives of millions of people.

Prohibiting students' rights to access and study of a targeted peoples is a crime against education, efforts to instill peace and justice, and protect the innate rights of people and cultures already violently oppressed for far too long. It is a strategy of keeping people ignorant of certain, selected, targeted populations so that manipulation of reality/propaganda can be substituted for honest presentation with the goal of denying any chance of understanding, acceptance, solidarity, or finding common ground among different nations and peoples in order to continue robbing them of their land, culture, humanity, life. When only one-sided claims are allowed to be read or heard against a people or nation, it's a lot easier to oppress and even destroy them.

I sincerely hope you will make your decisions based on inclusion, fairness and scholastic professionalism, and not buckle to those who want to manipulate students' understanding and attitudes to further oppress others.

Thank you,

Tim Jeffries