

From: Nati Pressman
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 5:07 AM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ethnic studies curriculum

Hi,

My name is Natalie Pressman, and I am a high school student. I am asking you to create a more inclusive Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. This means:

- teach about all forms of antisemitism
- represent the full diversity of the Jewish community
- add a comprehensive lesson plan about Middle Eastern communities, including Jews.

I also want to share with you a letter from high school students and allies that over 350 students have signed.

Please find it here: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_tinyurl.com_esmc_revisions_letter&d=DwIFAg&c=SIStQSL0VMIUJoLS-Q8giiFIA-AKdP7tpJHyQh8DeXk&r=2OaA-TxI6K6ZRmr4TOdWGvysPQu38AWfS6kE1RPAYI8&m=76zcmo1jXsUta9PUhG7CbuDG-clkS0m4h_4hZzY3U78&s=IBn-uftNoh4woa8_vj9xGztorQNXpNjEXqUbNnC13SE&e=

<p>Far too many of us have faced anti-Jewish hatred. Antisemitic incidents in high schools across California include swastikas drawn on high school buildings, hate songs sung by school sports teams, and Nazi salutes at parties. In the bigger picture, the Jewish community in Poway was attacked by a white supremacist terrorist last year and antisemitism continues to rise in our state. Learning about antisemitism in all its forms is crucial to building a full understanding of racism and discrimination in America.</p> <p>We are relieved to know that openly anti-Israel and antisemitic content has been removed from the ESMC. It was deeply disturbing for many of us to be faced with the threat of such hatred and bias being taught in our schools. That said, we are still very concerned that the "Guiding Values and Principles" in Chapter 1 of the ESMC will be used to justify promoting anti-Zionism, BDS, and one-sided narratives against Israel within ethnic studies courses.</p> <p>For example, Guiding Value and Principle #6 is to "connect ourselves to past and contemporary resistance movements that struggle for social justice on the global and local levels". This could be applied in a way that is empowering and educational for us and our peers. Unfortunately, due to confusion about the harmful goals and impacts of anti-Zionism and BDS, it could also be applied in a way that leads to attacks on our identities. This would be a clear violation of Guiding Value and Principle #1: "cultivate empathy... self-determination, and the holistic well-being of all participants". We urge you to clarify this section and include strong guidelines about fostering critical thinking rather than erasable national narratives, division, and hate.</p>	<p>ESMC Revisions Statewide Letter - Google Docs</p> <p>urldefense.proofpoint.com</p> <p>Dear members of the Instructional Quality Commission, We are Jewish high school students and non-Jewish student allies from across California, writing to share our feedback about the new draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). We come from diverse backgrounds, including Persian Jews...</p>
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Thank you.
Natalie Pressman