

**From:** Andrew Ramirez (I)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 11:40 AM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies  
**Cc:** Tracie Yee  
**Subject:** Public Input PDF's 8/15/19

William J. Bernfeld  
Los Angeles, California  
90071

August 9, 2019

Ms. Soomin Chao  
Chair, Instructional Quality Commission  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

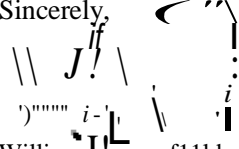
Dear Chairwoman Chao and Members of the Instructional Quality Commission:

I write to add my voice to that of the thousands of Californians and numerous organizations and coalitions that have expressed alarm over the current draft of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). In its current iteration, the ESMC falls short of its goal to "prepare pupils to be global citizens with an appreciation for the contributions of multiple cultures," as a result of its erasure of, and at times hostility to, the American Jewish experience, and its one-sided representation of the highly complex and disputed conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people.

I support and draw your attention to the detailed comments submitted by the Institute for Curriculum Services and the Jewish Public Affairs Committee, as well as by Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa and the Legislative Jewish and LGBT caucuses. Among the concerns shared by these broad-based and diverse groups are 1) the omission of Jews as an ethnic group and of anti-Semitism as a form of bias and prejudice; 2) the negative stereotypes of Jews and Israel; and 3) the inclusion of, and support for, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which presents a single, divisive viewpoint on a complex issue and creates a hostile environment for those who disagree with or question its principles.

California students deserve the best education possible, and will surely benefit from an ethnic studies curriculum that serves to alleviate prejudice and bigotry and supports inclusion, empathy, and critical thinking. The current draft of the ESMC does not do this. I hope that my letter, along with the collective voice you are hearing from Californians, will help the Commission to reflect on the deep flaws of the draft and demonstrate the need to introduce revisions. Among these are a sensitive inclusion of California Jewish history and culture, as well as mention of anti-Semitism and the elimination of irrelevant and inflammatory polemics about Israel. These revisions are critical to the ESMC's ability to meet its own standards of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
  
William J. Bernfeld

Hello,

If you decided to dedicate your career to be a public servant, it's very clear that you care. You care about our children's education, success, future, and safety.

I'm writing to you as a CA resident and a very worried mom. The Department of **Education California\_ is creating a new ethnic studies curriculum. The curriculum does** not recognize Jews as a minority in the US. Furthermore, it calls for boycotting Israel (in 3 different classes), attempt to explain the conflict in the middle east using a single-sided story, **encourage aggression against Israelis, and spread hate against Israelis and Jews.**

We had over +200 mass shootingshis year. Almost all of them directed towards minorities and many of them - directed towards Israelis and Jews. I would not be able to sleep at night if I ever hear that the next shooter learned that "Jews are bad" in these **classes - I hope you wouldn't either.**

Iwill be terrified to send my kids to school knowing that their fellow students are thought that Israelis, Jews (or African American or Latinos or Muslims) - are bad and we should boycott them.

**I hear of school bullying because of ethnicity is on the rise. I tear when I see a mass shooting in a synagogue. I also tear when I see mass shooting in a mosque.**

I don't know why the people that wrote the curriculum want to spread hate. In a program for ethnic studies more than anything. The last thing we need in California and the US in **general - is more hate. We don't need discrimination against Jews, Israelis or any other** minority. We need more love. More respect. To all people and all minorities. So both you and I can send our kids to school and feel safe.

There are 1.2M Jews in California. There are also 300,000 Jews living in California and **can be directly affected if we spread hate against them. The curriculum is discriminating them by neglecting to teach their history. It also ca!!s to ban and hate them. My child will** have a much higher chance to get bullied just because he is Jewish. Because I happen to be born in Israel. Is that the education system we want to build in CA?

If you really do care about the safety of our children - please act now. You are my public representative and I trust you would do so. Can you help?

Thank you,

Maayan Cohen, Gilly's mom and a resident of Menlo Park CA

Ms. Soomin Chao  
Chair, Instructional Quality Commission  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Regarding: California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) -AB 331

As a concerned American and supporter of Israel, I am deeply troubled by the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) and truly alarmed that if AB 331 is approved by the California state legislature in the coming days, every high school student in the state will be required to take an ethnic studies course based on the ESMC before graduating. I am aware that many individuals and groups affiliated with the Jewish community have already written to you about the ESMC's shocking omission of information about American Jews and antisemitism, its use of classic antisemitic stereotypes, and its blatant anti-Israel bias. This includes the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, who wrote to you that they "cannot support a curriculum that erases the American Jewish experience, fails to discuss antisemitism, reinforces negative stereotypes about Jews, singles out Israel for criticism and would institutionalize the teaching of antisemitic stereotypes in our public schools."

I am writing to you because I believe these concerns highlight a much deeper and graver problem, namely, the fact that an educational curriculum can be hijacked by those pushing a political and hateful agenda. If not addressed, this problem threatens to undermine not only the current effort to develop an ethnic studies model curriculum, but all other curricular efforts undertaken by the Department of Education. In order to prevent such abuse and the extremely harmful consequences that will ensue from it, I believe safeguards *must* be put in place before *any* state-mandated curriculum is adopted for use in California classrooms.

I strongly urge you, as well as the Board of Education officials and state legislators to immediately address this consequential problem by establishing safeguards for ensuring that all state-sponsored curricula and other instructional materials may *never* be created or used as tools of political indoctrination that promote hatred and incite harm against any race, religion, group or individual.

Respectfully,

/s/ [Signature]

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Eitan Friedman, and I am a high schooler from Palo Alto. California's Board of Education has recently published a draft of a new ethnic studies course in California, that is open for public comment until August 15. Learning about different minorities and their histories is of course of the utmost importance, however there is one big issue with this new curriculum. The course is blatantly antisemitic, anti-Israel, and pro-BOS.

Despite Jews being a minority in the US facing growing discrimination, their hardships are not mentioned in the course. Last year saw a 210% increase in anti-jewish hate crimes, while hate crimes overall decreased 2.5%. Many synagogues across the nation have begun hiring armed security guards, for fear of being the next target. Of course, this could easily be dismissed to the fact that there wasn't enough room in the course to cover Jewish history. But not only does the course not mention this growing hatred towards Jews, it proceeds to support BDS, an antisemitic movement that is strongly against the notion of a Jewish state, and spreads lies and deceptions to further its own agenda. Many people believe that the goal of BDS is to promote policy change in Israel, when in fact their mission is the destruction of the state. That is what this course is supporting. If that's not enough, a list of "Significant Figures to Cover" throughout the course is given, including:

- Linda Sarsour, who claimed that you cannot be a Zionist and a feminist, while Israel is one of the few countries in the middle east that gives women full rights
- Helen Thomas, who lost her job as a White House correspondent for claiming that "Jews should get the hell out of Palestine"
- Rashida Tlaib, a U.S. representative from Michigan, who is an open supporter of BDS, and is against the two-state solution

Obviously, these figures are not representative of both sides of the conflict and are all antisemitic. As a Jew, and a student, I am appalled that such a curriculum could even be proposed, and would be embarrassed to see this course in my communities' school syllabus. I hope you can help change this course to be more representative of the truth, and not so objective.

Yours Truly, Eitan Friedman

Palo Alto 94303

Hi,

We are writing to you as very worried Jewish parents in California. I hear repeated stories recently about kids that are bullied at school because there are Israeli-American or Jewish. A mom in our community told us that her son was beat up in soccer practice because he is a "stinky Jew". Another child was banned for months in high school because he is Israeli-American. 20 other stories popped up just in the last 3 months.

We definitely need to teach kids about minorities living in CA and their heritage. The education department started a wonderful initiative - adding an "ethnic studies curriculum". But the committee that was supposed to be unbiased and not politically swayed apparently has 3 known (possibly more) BOS activists that publicly act against Jews and Israelis. It intentionally neglected to include Jewish people and those of Israeli-American heritage.

1.2M Jews and 300K Americans living in CA are discriminated in this program. They also call for boycotting Israelis in several classes. This is not the California we love. This is a curriculum that calls for hate. We should learn about all minorities living in California in meaningful numbers and learn to love and respect each other. We can't call for any type of hateful acts and aggression in any school program. We can't discriminate against Jews and Israelis. We should celebrate our CA diversity and put aside politics.

I'm very worried about the safety of my children if their friends in school will be taught the suggested program. Whether we agree with Israel's actions or not, the last thing we want is for Ethnic Studies to drive an increased rate of violence and bullying in our schools. Please act imminently (before August 15th) to change the curriculum.

Thank you, Inna and Alex Goldshteyn  
San Francisco California 94116.

Hello,

I'm writing to you as a very worried California parent. I'm Jewish and I was born in Israel. I hear **repeated stories recently on kids that are bullied at school because there are Israeli-American or Jews.**

The California Department of Education started a wonderful and blessed initiative - adding an "ethics study curriculum". But the committee that was supposed to be unbiased and not politically swayed apparently has 3 known (possibly more) BOS activists that publicly act **against Jews and Israelis. It intentionally neglected to include Jews and Israeli-Americans** heritage. 1.2M Jews and 300K Americans living in CA are discriminated in this program. They also call for boycotting Israelis in several classes of this program. We definitely need to teach kids about minorities living in CA and their heritage but NOT with this new program.

**A mom in our community told us that her son was beat up in soccer practice because he is a "stinky Jew"** in Los Altos CA. Another child was banned for months in high school because he is Israeli-Americans and the teacher in Albany CA taught the class that we should "ban everything related to Israel". An Asian-American 12-year-old boy gave his Jewish friend a "yellow Star of David" to put on his clothes since he never learned about the holocaust. He was just trying to be nice and read online that "this is how you mark Jews".

My grandpa lost his entire families in the holocaust in Poland. My grandma ran for her life after she was forced to convert to Islam in Iran. I was born in Israel and chose California as my home because it's a place of tolerance. Of love. Where everyone is accepted.

This is not the California we love. This is a curriculum that calls for hate. We should learn about all minorities living in California in meaningful numbers and learn to love and respect each other. We can't call for any type of hate acts and aggression in any school program. We can't discriminate against Jews and Israelis. We should celebrate our CA diversity and put aside politics. I'm very worried about the safety of my children if their friends in school will be taught the suggested program.

Whether we agree with Israel's policy or not (and I personally don't agree with many things that the Israeli government is doing either) - the last thing we want is for ethnic studies to increase **the rate of violence and bullying incidents in our schools.**

Please act imminently (before August 15th) to change the curriculum.

Thank you,

**Maya Gonen**  
Redwood city 94063 CA

California business owner and a proud employer of African-American, Latin-Americans. **Israeli-Americans, Lebanese-Americans, Indian-Americans, Asian-Americans and just regular** Americans (including Jews, Christians, Muslims, non-religions) - all working happily and respectfully together.

8/12/19

Hello! We are Isabella Gonzalez and Moran Nachum. We are a Jewish Mexican & Israeli couple in Long Beach, CA. We are looking forward to raising proud Mexican and Jewish kids (like Mayor Eric Garcetti!). Our experience is excluded in the draft Model Ethnic Studies Curriculum. Please include Jewish communities and do not demonize Israel in California classrooms! Isabella  
Thank you for considering our comment. + Moran



## Public Input Template-2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum May 2019 Draft

(Download and use to provide specific recommendations)

Include the chapter of the model curriculum, the page number, and line number(s) to ensure that the California Department of Education and Instructional Quality Commission can reference the content of the document when **reviewing your comments. Please email this document as a Word document to [ethnlcstudies@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ethnlcstudies@cde.ca.gov). You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at [kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov](mailto:kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov) with any questions regarding this template or the public input process.**

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation L. Kaufman	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <i>[Enter the Chapter Number here, or just "General" for a comment that applies to the entire document.]</i> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <i>[Enter Your Name]</i>   <i>[Enter the agency, organization, or business that you represent, if applicable.]</i> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <i>[Include the page and line number(s) here-Write your comment here]</i>             I am appalled by the recommendations for the ethnic studies curriculum. It <b>presents the BDS movement as a progressive social movement, and goes on to describe Israel as an apartheid state, and to use anti-Semitic tropes in its argument. The entire document represents a one-sided extreme left progressive viewpoint that does not represent the thinking of most Californians, especially of Jewish people who are not represented as a minority at all, and who are offended by the descriptions of BDS and Israel.</b> </div>

Hello,

I'm writing to you as a CA resident and a worried mother of two wonderful young kids.

The Department of Education California is creating a new ethnic studies curriculum. This program to my understanding calls to boycott Israel in three different classes, attempts to explain the conflict in the middle east using a single-sided story, encourage discrimination and aggression and spread hate against Israelis and Jews. A new objective curriculum is the right choice for California, based on the values of tolerance and acceptance towards minorities.

We had over 224 mass shootings this year, one of them was very close to where we live, in Gilroy, CA, and took the lives of three innocent people, including two kids. Almost all the mass shootings were directed towards minorities, including Israelis and Jews.

I'm worried that the suggested change might cause to even more hate that will result in more violence towards minorities. I will be worried for my children's safety once this program will pass. Will my children become a target because their parents were born in Israel or because we are Jews? I'm asking you to act now, so it will never happen.

Thank you for your consideration,

Idit Kosti, PhD

Postdoctoral researcher, UCSF, CA

Resident of Sunnyvale, CA

Mother of Geva and Peleg



Hi there!

My name is Abigail. I live in Sunnyvale California, I'm five years old and I will be going to kindergarten next year.

**I was looking forward to joining a California school as my parents (who immigrated here from Israel 10 years ago) always told me how inclusive and loving the California school system is. But I understand this isn't true anymore. With a good intention of adding 'ethnic studies' that are supposed to promote equality and understanding, you were duped by the people who created the program to actually spread hate and biased misinformation against my ethnic group.**

Can you please stop that from happening?


Abigail

Alon Matas (Abigail's dad)  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

The California Department of Education is creating a new ethnic studies curriculum. **The curriculum does not recognize Jews as a minority in the US. Furthermore, it calls for boycotting Israel (in 3 different classes), attempt to explain the conflict in the middle east using a single-sided story, encourage aggression against Israelis, and spread hate against Israelis and Jews.**

Please act before August 15th to change the curriculum.

<https://www.Jatimes.com/lo-ca/Janow/la-me-ln-jewish-latino-hate-crime-report-20190703-story.html> .  
For California's schools to present this curriculum change now is in itself proof of a growth in anti-semitism that is as alarming as it is repulsive. I demand that the people responsible for this curriculum be identified and removed from decision making roles as quickly as possible

Sincerely,  


Nora Hazi

August 10, 2019

Nora Hazi  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Ms. Soomin Chao Chair  
Instructional Quality Commission California Department of Education  
1430 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

To Chairwoman Chao and Members of the Instructional Quality Commission:

I write as a concerned taxpayer, a member of the Jewish community, a long time activist for progressive causes and a member of the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club Board of Directors. I am extremely concerned by the proposed curriculum for the required "Ethnic Studies Program" in public high schools. The fact that Jews are omitted as an ethnic group, especially in these times when Jews and other ethnic minorities are being singled out, is unconscionable. The curriculum also presents a highly biased view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a classic sign of the "new anti-semitism" which is just an old hatred disguised amidst anti-Israel views.

Not long ago in Charlottesville, white nationalists shouted "Jews will not replace us" as a protester was killed. The Poway synagogue shooting this year killed 11 Jews and was the most deadly anti-semitic attack in U.S. history. Moreover, the virulent and anti-semitic tropes found in the curriculum as it deals with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are deplorable. The "information" presented about the conflict is inaccurate and misleading. Information about the BDS movement is one-sided and fails to mention serious problems with the movement, such as that the damage it inflicts mainly affects Israeli universities and academics as well as Palestinian-owned businesses - <https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Palestinian-employees-lured-by-BDS-speak-up-about-its-negative-effects-560511> . I am most shocked, however, about the blatant singling out of one ethnic group and one country, Jews and Israel, in the guise of a program aimed at understanding and preventing ethnic and racial discrimination. I am an immigrant and do not support many of the policies of my native government, Argentina. However, singling out Argentina for specific censure amid hundreds of countries in the world would be ridiculous and obviously prejudiced. Yet it has occurred to no one in the group designing this program that singling out Israel and its people for censure because of its government's policies while ignoring other countries, other conflicts, other human rights violations occurring every day is imposing a double standard that is anti-semitic in itself.

As a taxpayer and active voter I demand that an investigation be made as to the motivations behind the curriculum and its singularly biased perspective. Who prepared it? How was this singular bias allowed to continue? Why were opposing views not presented? Why, most glaringly, were Jews as an ethnic class not included in it? Hate crimes against Jews increased more than those against any other ethnic group in 2018, and represented the largest single growth of religious-based hate crimes.

BDS is a political,not a social, movement and is a continuation of the "Don't Buy from the Jews" action instituted by the Arab League decades *prior to* the establishment of the Jewish state.

The aim, according to its modern "founder" is the destruction of srael.

There is no apartheid inside srael; sraeli Arabs have full rights as citizens. The situation has nothing in common with the anti-apartheid movement against South Africa. However, no surrounding Arab state (nor Gaza, nor the Palestinian Authority) allows a Jew to live within its borders.

BDS is a **straw-man argument** that would serve well as an example for a class on rhetoric or critical thinking but has no place in this course without the addition of factual opposition. As written, this is blatant propaganda. Most mainstream Jewish organizations recognize "BDS" as an antisemitic movement and it has no place within Ethnic Studies aside from demonizing an historically oppressed population.

close with my observation of a disturbing thrust in this "model" course. Rather than inclusiveness, there is a negative emphasis on celebrating divisions. It is possible to teach ways to honor and celebrate our differences without weaponizing them towards others. \*

[\*"E" Lines 130-131: "*Empathy*- the ability to understand another person's thoughts, experiences, and feelings from their point of view."1

Realizing that it is a more than difficult task, I nonetheless direct your attention to a complete rewriting of this flawed document.

Very truly yours,

:\_1,,\_1       ' . -Y

Michael Mulcahy. Security Chair at Congregation Beth srael, Chico CA

Ms. Soomin Chao

Chair, nstructional Quality Commission

California Department of Education

1430 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

12 August 2019

Dear Chairwoman Chao -

I have many serious concerns about the "Draft Ethnic Studies Curriculum" as currently presented. This is a very long document, difficult to parse, and the deadline for public comment is fast approaching. With that in mind, I will focus on only a few of my reservations.

**1. In general:** the document is filled with obscure and incomprehensible jargon.

My suggestion is that the language of this document be reviewed with the aim of more clarity, using standard writing style and practice.

**2. There is a glaring omission in the **Glossary** provided: [A] No line item.**

In a document supposedly devoted to equity and inclusion, there is no mention of **Antisemitism**. For two thousand years the Jewish people have been excluded, demonized, discriminated against, and slaughtered, universally acknowledged as *the model* for what is termed "The Other." Jews are about 3% of the American population; yet year after year the FBI reports that they are 60-65% of hate crimes committed and that incidence is increasing dramatically.

**3. However, a definition of **Islamophobia** is found later in the document [C] Lines 239-40.**

Two similar hatreds, but one is excluded while the other is highlighted. While Islamophobia is a problem in America, it is of recent origin and the number of violent incidents is far below those targeting Jews.

Just what is going on here? This smacks of a judgement akin to that of Orwell's *Animal Farm* Some animals are more equal than others.

**4. All of "B" Lines 30-40 is devoted to **only one item**, the Boycott srael movement ("BDS").**

One wonders why this is even here, other than to offer a completely misleading definition of what it is. If this is to be included in the document, some corrections and clarifications are in order:

In his 1948 book, "God in the Dock," C.S. Lewis stated:

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victim may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. ....those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

The Draft Ethnic Studies Curriculum is a disaster in the making. No amount of socio-babble will justify this Curriculum which will serve to divide rather than unite students. From every point of view this Curriculum presents a hazard rather than a benefit. The Curriculum is unacceptable and must not be implemented.

Sincerely,



Morton Satin

7031Tuscany Way

El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

msatin@grnaiLcon1

Ms. Soomin Chao Chair,

Instructional Quality Commission

California Department of Education

1430 N Street

Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

August 11, 2019

To Chairwoman Chao and Members of the Instructional Quality Commission:

I am writing to raise objections to the Draft 2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. I have spent my career as an Executive Field Officer in the United Nations. In that role I gained significant firsthand experience on the ground in areas of conflict around the world and have been witness to unthinkable tragedies and atrocities resulting from the overzealous expression of ethnicity. Students in the age categories covered by the proposed Ethnic Studies Curriculum are very impressionable and serving up a Curriculum of examples arbitrarily selected out of the broad-spectrum of exemplars provides information that is totally void of perspective.

At a time when it is more important than ever to stress our commonalities rather than our differences to young students, the Ethnic Studies Curriculum will sew division rather than unity. This county's strength derives from its fusion of ethnicities. Any Curriculum that serves to deconstruct the 'melting pot' will make students feel apart from the main.

Injustice cannot be tolerated, nor can it be trivialized by a facile, biased view, even if politically correct or in vogue. Injustice can only be eliminated by providing people the tools with which to erase it. This Curriculum is out of sync with reality.

The course material itself is biased, highlighting certain ethnicities while ignoring injustices to others. An obvious omission is the skyrocketing crimes against Jews – antisemitism. The fact that this phenomenon has been virtually absent from the Curriculum serves as an excellent example of the recklessness of the Curriculum and the negligence of its drafters. And if it was not negligence, then it was candid racism.

Hello!

My name is Ariel and I'm a high school student in Santa Clara, California. My brother Dan is in elementary school. We moved from Israel six years ago. I'm interested to learn about the different communities in California, but why was only the Jewish minority discriminated against and excluded from the curriculum?

Also please don't single out Israel and bring politics into our classroom. BOS (Boycott, **Divestment, and Sanctions**) is a political movement that is banned in many counties and anti-BOS measures were taken in many states in the US. I believe that teaching about BOS without the proper context and balanced perspective is wrong and will create an **unsafe environment for me and other Jewish and Israeli students in my school. I don't** want to be boycotted.

Thank you for considering my comments!

Ariel

Jenny Shalev (Ariel's mom)  
Sunnyvale 94087

The California Department of Education is creating a new ethnic studies curriculum. The curriculum does not recognize Jews as a minority in the US. Furthermore, it calls for boycotting Israel (in 3 different classes), attempt to explain the conflict in the middle east **using a single-sided story, encourage aggression against Israelis, and spread hate** against Israelis and Jews.

Please act before August 15th to change the curriculum.



Hello!

My name is Ariel and I'm a high school student in Santa Clara, California. My brother Dan is in elementary school. We moved from Israel six years ago. I'm interested to learn about the different communities in California, but why was only the Jewish minority discriminated against and excluded from the curriculum?

Also please don't single out Israel and bring politics into our classroom. BOS (Boycott, **Divestment, and Sanctions**) is a political movement that is banned in many counties and anti-BOS measures were taken in many states in the US. I believe that teaching about BOS without the proper context and balanced perspective is wrong and will create an **unsafe environment for me and other Jewish and Israeli students in my school. I don't** want to be boycotted.

Thank you for considering my comments!

Ariel

Jenny Shalev (Ariel's mom)  
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The California Department of Education is creating a new ethnic studies curriculum. The curriculum does not recognize Jews as a minority in the US. Furthermore, it calls for boycotting Israel (in 3 different classes), attempt to explain the conflict in the middle east **using a single-sided story, encourage aggression against Israelis, and spread hate** against Israelis and Jews.

Please act before August 15th to change the curriculum.

To whom it may concern,

The Department of Education California is creating a new ethnic studies curriculum.

I have taken the time to look into the suggested curriculum.

There are many points within this curriculum that need to be closely examined and addressed.

First of all, the curriculum does not recognize Jews as a minority in the US. Furthermore, it calls for boycotting Israel (in 3 different classes), attempts to explain the conflict in the Middle East using a single-sided story, encourages aggression against Israelis, and spreads hate against Israelis and Jews.

The section called "Sample Course Models" includes false representation of history that is biased against Israel, under the section "THE HISTORY OF ARAB IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES." The curriculum also spreads falsehoods under the following topics in the section "Arab American Studies Course OutlineH:

1. Direct Action Front for Palestine and Black Lives Matter.
2. Call to Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Israel.
3. Comparative Border Studies: Palestine and Mexico.

As a Jewish immigrant from Israel, I find this extremely disturbing and alarming. Finding such anti-semitic statements being suggested for a formal school curriculum brings me back to the stories I heard about the state of mind in Germany, prior to the second world war.

I would be terrified to send my kids to school here knowing that their fellow students were being taught that Israelis or Jews (or African American, Latinos, Muslims or any other ethnic group) should be boycotted and suppressed.

So far, we have seen over 240 mass shootings this year in the United States, almost all of them directed towards minorities, and some of them directed towards Israelis and Jews. Such a curriculum can form the next shooter who learns about Jews/Israel in a negative context.

A program for ethnic studies should be promoting ethnic acceptance and not divergence. The last thing we need in California, and the US in general, is more hate.

There are over a million Jewish people living in California, including around 300,000 Israelis, who can be directly affected by such a curriculum. This would be the first step towards an even easier path to propagating such topics to other curriculums throughout the United States and further escalating the anti-semitism in existing ones.

I urge you to please take a stand and actively fight to prevent this curriculum from being accepted.

Thank You!

Shoham Yam and Neomi Brunshteyn  
Campbell!