

**From:** Aristel Delacruz

**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2020 2:18 PM

**To:** [emails redacted]

**Cc:** Ethnic Studies

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter in Support of Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Draft

Greetings JUHSD School Board,

I'm writing this letter in support of resolution to support the draft on the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum. As a teacher of Ethnic Studies at SSFUSD in recent years, I have seen the potential of ethnic studies to create engaged and passionate young people who are invested in addressing racism and inequity in their communities. As a state that prides itself in diversity, it is critical that we support a curriculum that is rooted in highlighting voices that have been historically disenfranchised and silenced.

Understanding the contributions and the ways in which communities of color have survived is essential to cultivating a healthy self-esteem among students so that they may reach their full potential. This curriculum is not to be mistaken as a curriculum that reduces the cultures and experiences of people of color to merely foods, dances, and costumes. Nor is this curriculum to be mistaken as encouraging racial tensions or divisions. It, in fact, has done the opposite, as evidenced by the growing body of research on Ethnic Studies. This curriculum is guided by principles of social justice and is rooted in, but not limited to, historical and sociological analysis. It is about critical thinking, building solidarity across racial groups, and is in line with many of the principles of the Civil Rights Movement in the 60's around equity and civic engagement.

I urge the board to vote unanimously in favor of this resolution. Thank you.

Aristel de la Cruz

Teacher at South San Francisco High School