

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 ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov. You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov with any questions regarding this template or the public input process.

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
[Enter the Chapter Number here, or just “General” for a comment that applies to the entire document.]	Jerome A. Rabow	[Include the page and line number(s) here—Write your comment here]
Glossary	Jerome A. Rabow	No mention of Anti-Semitism? Contrast that with the extensive coverage of Islamophobia and anti-black, -latino, and -native American ideologies.
Glossary		“Capitalism”: Why should we be teaching our children that Capitalism is inherently a tool of oppression?
Glossary		In general, Filled with dog-whistle terms that are outside of normal vocabulary, and serve as instruments of spreading hatred, victimization, and exclusion.

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	Jerome A. Rabow	p. 234: A shameful call to BDS, which is an on-going tool of anti-semitism. Why are we training children to be activists in creating hatred? It's no secret that BDS has now become in the academic world a litmus test for oppression of Jews and others. Do we permit that for any other democratic ally of our country? And why does this domestic school curriculum train advocacy for perceived international situations (or rather, the situation in the single Jewish state in the last 2,000 years)?
	Jerome A. Rabow	p. 242: The Palestinian term for the 1948 "Palestinian" War? This was a War of Jewish survival initiated by the attacking Arab countries surrounding Israel, a democratic nation recognized by the United Nations and by the United States.
	Jerome A. Rabow	P. 256: We should not weaponize music in the service of inculcating a sense of hatred and victimization.
	Jerome A. Rabow	pp. 264-269: Declaring the goal of freeing the "Palestinian Soil" is historically untrue (if the coin of truth still retains some value). And why is the Jewish State of Israel the sole international problem that is focused upon in this so-called curriculum?
GENERAL	Jerome A. Rabow	I'm trying to tamp down my anger, and, yes, fear, over what I have had time to read of this proposal. The anti-semitism in this proposal is as clear as the chants of the neo-Nazis in the Charlottesville videos. I didn't notice any mention of the Shoah (but you sure knew how to spell and translate the "Nakba"). It's been three-quarters of a century since I had to literally run home after school, to avoid being beaten up by anti-Semitic bullies in the nice middle-class suburb where I was born and raised – so please forgive me if I'm not seeing much progress here.

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GENERAL	Jerome A. Rabow	This proposed curriculum doesn't just need some balancing and tweaking. I believe it should be totally scrapped, and the important work of ethnic studies should be planned based upon appropriate American core values: The goal should be to offer the opportunity for our children to learn about the history and contributions of the various cultures that make up America. There's some evidence that this could lead to raising citizens who can accept, respect, and embrace cultural differences. The program should not attempt to train and direct political activism aimed at erasing any minority, nor to elevate victimization or encourage politically correct language that encourages exclusion and hate. And frankly, making skin tone the marker of acceptability is as wrong when it stereotypes white Americans as when it stereotypes black and brown Americans. When I go to my synagogue, I now have to pass through elaborate armed security procedures – I certainly don't feel like I'm reaping the benefits of white privilege.