

**From:** Victoria Wong

**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2019 1:48 PM

**To:** Tony Thurmond; [ldarlinghammond@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ldarlinghammond@cde.ca.gov); [schao@cde.ca.gov](mailto:schao@cde.ca.gov); [gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov](mailto:gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov); [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov)

**Cc:** SBE; IQC; Karen Stapf Walters; Stephanie Gregson; [assemblymember.weber@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.weber@assembly.ca.gov); [assemblymember.gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov); [assemblymember.chiu@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.chiu@assembly.ca.gov); [senator.levya@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.levya@senate.ca.gov); [jamie.callahan@gov.ca.gov](mailto:jamie.callahan@gov.ca.gov); Ethnic Studies; [savecaethnicstudies@gmail.com](mailto:savecaethnicstudies@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Support Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) Draft & Respect CA Communities Who Have Worked Towards It for Over 50+ Years

September 18, 2019

To: The Honorable Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President of the California State Board of Education  
Soomin Chao, Chair of the California Instructional Quality Commission  
The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of the State of California

Cc: The California State Board of Education  
The California Instructional Quality Commission  
Jamie Callahan, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director of the California State Board of Education  
Dr. Stephanie Gregson, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Performance, Planning & Technology Branch  
California Senator Connie M. Leyva, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Education  
California Assemblymember Shirley Weber, Chair of the State Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate, and of the CA Legislative Black Caucus  
California Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, Chair of the CA Legislative Latino Caucus  
California Assemblymember David Chiu, Chair of the CA Legislative Asian American Caucus  
The ESMC Project at the California Department of Education - Public Comments  
The Save California Ethnic Studies Coalition

RE: Support the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) Draft and Respect Our Communities of Color Struggles for Educational Representation and Social Justice

My name is Vicci Wong and I was a founder of the Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA), which gave birth to the Asian American Movement in May 1968. AAPA originated and popularized the term and concept of Asian American, which today is universally recognized and used. Yet this historical fact is completely missing in most, if not all, public school texts and teaching. It's shocking most Americans, especially Asian Americans, do not know this significant fact; and a glaring example of why we need an authentic Ethnic Studies.

AAPA co-founded the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) at UC Berkeley that led the Third World Strike in 1968. With SF State's TWLF strikers, we both gave birth to Ethnic Studies as not only an academic discipline but a much needed community voice to enable all our students to widen their horizons, evolve their humanity and become problem-solvers not only in the workplace but in our endangered communities, country and the world.

Today students of color are a 3/4-majority of CA's public schools yet they continue to be shamefully mis- or under-represented in school curriculum.

You can make the difference in which direction our state and the entire world declines or advances—  
SAVE Ethnic Studies and our 3 Demands.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Vicci Wong

Founding Member: Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA) 1968

Third World Liberation Front UC Berkeley 1969

\*According to the CA Dept. of Education: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/ceffingertipfacts.asp>