

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)
	[Yael Saidoff]	<p>Hi there, I am concerned about the anti-Israel bias found in the model curriculum. Please reconsider including divisive and one-sided perspectives. At this time of increased polarization, our children need to learn how to hold conflicting viewpoints more than ever. When our society becomes divided, we all lose – and it seems to me that this curriculum will indeed contribute to that troubling trend. Please see:</p> <p>Page 2 of glossary [definition of BDS is itself a position that represents one side only] and pages 234, 242, 256, 264-269 of the sample course models for examples.</p> <p>According to the stated goal of this curriculum, it should: “enable students to develop a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and inclusion, and aids in the eradication of bigotry, hate, and racism.” I am afraid that the authors are blind to the true impact of this text, due to anti-Israel bias. This morning I opened my inbox to find an article about record high levels of attacks on Jews in Britain. This coincides with anti-Israel rhetoric. There is severe anti-Semitism and very little understanding in our community about the nature of this pervasive hate and racism – I am afraid that the authors of this curriculum are either ignorant of this truth, or an active part of it – since they neglected to address it as a feature of this curriculum. That alone is evidence of clear bias.</p>