

From: Alisa Avigan
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Ethnic Studies
Cc: Tony Thurmond
Subject: Please Revise Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Dear Instructional Quality Commission of the California Board of Education,

Although I support the introduction of an Ethnic Studies course to educate students on race, ethnicity and indigeneity in the United States, I am upset by the unbalanced curriculum being proposed. As a California resident, I urge you to make major revisions to the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum consistent with the recommendations from the California Legislative Jewish Caucus letter and [Jimena](#).

I believe the proposed curriculum is flawed in two major ways:

- The topic of the Palestinian/Israeli **international** conflict is out-of-context for a course whose objective is to focus on the **national** struggles of ethnic groups within the United States. Singling out this international conflict for inclusion within a domestic studies course is not only perplexing, but encourages surface, one-sided discussion of a complex issue that requires a dedicated course.
- Omitting the topic of anti-semitism from the curriculum is a major oversight. Anti-semitism is currently rising in the United States, evidenced by recent shootings at synagogues in California and Pennsylvania, anti-semitic chants heard in Charlottesville and hate crimes against Jews accounting for more than half of the religiously-motivated hate crimes in 2018 according to FBI stats.

As a Jewish, Californian resident, I believe that the proposed curriculum will further fuel the hate and discrimination currently being encountered by my community, a community, which needs the support of the state more than ever.

Please take this letter into consideration.

Sincerely,

Alisa Avigan