

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)
General	<i>Nurit Mandel Parent of California Students</i>	<p>I respectfully request the removal of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic content from the Glossary and Bibliography document on page 2, lines 30-40.</p> <p>The glossary for the curriculum includes a definition of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement against Israel. It claims the purpose of BDS is to, "establish freedom for Palestinians living under apartheid conditions". It then parrots more BDS talking points while offering no critical perspectives about this campaign of hate, which seeks to end Israel's existence.</p> <p>No other countries or cultures are singled out beyond the Jewish State. The content is contestable and includes falsehoods. BDS promotes hate and division. My son, a current California student, has first-hand experienced this in his middle school. This content will exacerbate anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiment and actions in schools.</p>

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	Nurit Mandel Parent of California Students	In addition, I request that the curriculum include American Jews as an ethnic group, including those who fled the Holocaust, oppression in the Middle East, and discrimination in the former Soviet Union. It would also be good to add information on how American Jews helped form civil liberty unions such as the ACLU and NAACP in the early 1900's.
	Nurit Mandel Parent of California Students	I also request that you remove the following anti-Israel biases from the proposed curriculum. The sample lesson plans for the curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage teachers to highlight BDS and a pro-BDS group called Direct Action for Palestine, but no voices critical of their perspectives (p. 234). • Promote a false equivalence between Israel's efforts to stop terrorists from entering communities to murder innocent people, and U.S. policies on the border with Mexico (p. 234). • Use unclear language that implies "Israel-Palestine" as a whole is an Arab country (p. 237). • Frame the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 War as fact, with no alternative perspectives (p. 242). • Encourage teachers to use a poem featuring harsh criticism of Israel, but no content offering a positive perspective about Israel or criticism of Palestinian leaders (p. 256, 264-269).