

From: Simone Arias
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:08 AM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ethnic Studies Curriculum

To Whom It May Concern:

As a retired Social Studies and English teacher, I am grateful for legislation that addresses the biases in education. Having taught more than 60 diverse populations across San Diego, I was inspired to get a PhD in Global Education to better prepare myself to teach with credibility and inclusiveness. I focused on African, Latin American, and Middle Eastern Studies to expand my perspectives.

While I welcome serious discussions about improving curriculum and mandating a course in Ethnic Studies, the divisive approach being proposed privileges certain ethnicities and undermines the intent of valuing all students. Political concerns dominate current discussion and fail to acknowledge that teachers are committed to curriculum that reflects multiple perspectives on historical topics without imposing personal views. That does not seem to be the direction the curriculum is headed. More inquiry and discussion is needed so that schools do not continue to marginalize populations out of prejudice or ignorance. It is harmful to students whose histories and experience are misrepresented and ironically perpetuates the problems Ethnic Studies is attempting to address.

Some progress has been made in selected fields of African, Latino, and East Asian history but Jewish, Muslim, and other ethnicities are often not given the same serious and comprehensive consideration. More discussion is needed to avoid privileging and denigrating populations intentionally or not.

Thank you,

Dr. Simone Arias

Retired Teacher

San Diego Unified School District