

From: itzamar carmona
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:36 PM
To: [email redacted]
Cc: [emails redacted]; Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save Ethnic Studies at OUSD

Hello Board Member Jumoke Hinton-Hodge,

As an OUSD alum, I'm deeply disappointed that this Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, which is meant to empower students of color and help close the opportunity gap, has been turned into a conversation about the differing opinions in the Jewish community.

Our Oakland students already learn about Jewish Americans impacted by the Holocaust and anti-semitism in Grades 6, 7, 10 and 11, while too many students of color do not get to learn anything about their own cultures and rich histories.

What we need in Oakland and our statewide and national curricula are the more balanced perspectives from communities of color. Only by lifting up the voices and experiences of Arab Americans can we dialogue in meaningful and thoughtful ways about our different perspectives on the world.

The ESMC references Jews and anti-semitism, and the claims that it is stereotyping and anti-semitic are just not true. Parts of the curriculum have been stretched and misinterpreted to fan the flames of hatred and attack Palestinian viewpoints.

Please reject attempts to intimidate School Boards from making powerful statements in support of our Arab American, Pacific Islander and Central American communities and our Ethnic Studies scholars.

Thank You

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Pronouns: they/them/she/her
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