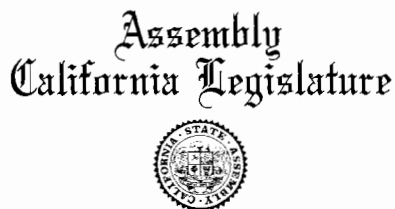


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October 24, 2019

State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

The Honorable Tony Thurmond
Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

OCT 28 2019

Dear Superintendent Thurmond:

On behalf of the California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, we write in support of the initial Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) draft. We appreciate the efforts and expertise of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Advisory Committee and the opportunity provided by the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) and your office to continue stakeholder engagement for future revisions to make the curriculum even stronger.

Ethnic studies is imperative to student learning and growth. The API Legislative Caucus has advocated for and championed legislation to mandate this course in our schools in direct response to the needs we have heard from our communities.

This curriculum is a vital framework for California public schools across the state, and we must work to ensure the model curriculum is inclusive and free from bias. Stakeholders from the API community have shared their concerns about the draft and have submitted their comments. One major concern is that some API communities are missing from the curriculum such as Korean, Lao and South Asian. In the Pacific Islander curriculum, there are consistency issues such as the use of "Guamanian" and "Chamorro" as interchangeable. We encourage the IQC to examine these comments seriously to ensure that the diversity of our API communities are represented and that the information is accurate.

Additionally, the API Legislative Caucus shares the Jewish community's concerns with the current draft of the ESMC as it pertains to the omission of anti-Semitism. In our current climate, we must provide our students with accurate information and avoid a curriculum that will marginalize or promote discrimination.

We understand that, as Superintendent, you are holding a statewide series of listening and feedback sessions with stakeholders including teachers, school districts and other experts to ensure that this model curriculum reflects our diversity. We encourage the Instructional Quality Commission and your office to consider the comments referenced in this letter as the next version of the ESMC is developed. Additionally, as the initial architects of the ESMC, we hope that members of the ESMC Advisory Committee are also consulted throughout the revision process.

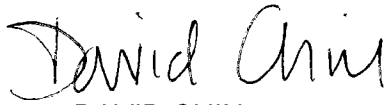
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Please count on us as a partner to disseminate information to our API communities on future stakeholder engagement opportunities. Thank you for your commitment to providing all of California's students with a comprehensive curriculum that allows students to think critically and learn about our state's diversity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Chiu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Chiu" clearly distinguishable.

DAVID CHIU

Assemblymember, 17th A.D.

Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative