

**From:** Hong, Alexander

**Sent:** Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:07 PM

**To:** Ethnic Studies

**Cc:** Superintendent; [emails redacted]

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Public Comment

Hello, my name is Alexander and I will be starting my master's degree in Teaching Foreign Language (MA TFL Arabic) at the Middlebury Institute in Monterey starting this fall.

I'm writing to advocate for an Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) that includes Arab Americans, women and men like Rashida Tlaib, Linda Sarsour, Ralph Nader, and Steve Jobs. As an Asian American, I know personally how displacing it is to not have one's history officially sanctioned by public education systems. To take on the challenges facing the United States, we need to teach students how diverse our country is and how interwoven our history is.

Additionally, I would like to add how including Palestinian history and defending human rights is not at all anti-Semitic. In fact, ignorance of the situation in the Middle East provides fuel for racist anti-Semites acting in bad faith and spreading fake news. An assessment of what is happening there in the context of an ESMC would be an important step in countering this and would help to build peacebuilding movements.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you and everyone you know are doing well during these times.

Sincerely,  
Alexander