

**From:** Jennifer Kelly-DeWitt  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 5, 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** Ethnic Studies  
**Cc:** Superintendent; [email redacted]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] public comment on ESMC

I wish to urge the IQC to adopt the ESMC, including Arab American studies, which has traditionally been part of Asian American studies. I am a high school teacher for immigrant youth in the Oakland Unified School District, and I know that my students would derive tremendous benefit from living in a state where their families' experiences, struggles, and triumphs are centered in our high school curriculum.

Given that Arab Americans in particular must contend with so many negative media portrayals of their communities and misinformation about who they are, it would be negligent for the state of California to exclude them from the proposed ethnic studies curriculum. Here is an important chance to provide a factual correction to the pernicious stereotyping of Arab Americans and to create a more inclusive California.

Thank you for reading my comment.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Kelly-DeWitt  
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