

From: Harvey Dong

Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 10:59 AM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Reinstate Arab American studies in Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Subject: Reinstate Arab American studies in

Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Dear California Dept. of Education Curriculum Committee,

Last Friday, the California Department of Education released the latest round of revisions to the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). We were outraged! Despite CA Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond's commitment in August, Arab American studies is not in the Asian American section of the curriculum. The one problematic, watered-down Arab American lesson is relegated to the appendix!

Palestinians have been completely eliminated from the ESMC. On top of that, a proposed definition of antisemitism equates criticism of Israel with antisemitism. This will have a chilling effect on teachers all over California and, by example, all over the United States.

This is not acceptable and I request that Arab American Studies is important for our students and should be taught within the Ethnic Studies Curriculum.

Sincerely,

Harvey Dong

Lecturer, Asian American & Asian American Studies

UC Berkeley