

Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum May 2019 Draft

(Download and use to provide specific recommendations)

Include the chapter of the model curriculum, the page number, and line number(s) to ensure that the California Department of Education and Instructional Quality Commission can reference the content of the document when reviewing your comments. Please email this document as a Word document to ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov. You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov with any questions regarding this template or the public input process.

Chapter of Model Curriculum	Your Name and Affiliation	Comment (include page and line numbers where applicable)
Glossary	Lisa Golshani, no affiliation	Glossary – includes a definition of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement against Israel. It claims the purpose of BDS is to “establish freedom for Palestinians living under apartheid conditions.” It then parrots more BDS talking points while offering no critical perspectives about this campaign of hate, which seeks to end Israel’s existence.
Sample Lesson Plans	Lisa Golshani, no affiliation	Page 234 – Encourage teachers to highlight BDS and a pro-BDS group called Direct Action for Palestine, but no voices critical of their perspectives.
Sample Lesson Plans	Lisa Golshani, no affiliation	Page 234 – Promotes a false equivalence between Israel’s efforts to stop terrorists from entering communities to murder innocent people, and U.S. policies on the border with Mexico.
Sample Lesson Plans	Lisa Golshani, no affiliation	Page 237 – Uses unclear language that implies “Israel-Palestine” as a whole is an Arab country.
Sample Lesson Plans	Lisa Golshani, no affiliation	Page 242 – Frames the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 War as fact, with no alternative perspectives.
Sample Lesson Plans	Lisa Golshani, no affiliation	Page 256, 264-269 – Encourages teachers to use a poem featuring harsh criticism of Israel, but no content offering a positive perspective about Israel or criticism of Palestinian leaders.

California Department of Education, June 2019

General Comment: My name is Lisa Golshani and I am a US citizen and a member of the Iranian-American Jewish community. I am writing to you because it appears that the proposed Ethnic Studies curriculum is holding many biased arguments to be taught to our students that I do not find to be just or an accurate representation of our history. I am asking for the removal of BDS and other anti-Israel bias from the model curriculum. I am also urge the state to add

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lessons about American Jews as an ethnic group including those who fled the Holocaust, oppression in the Middle East (my own family's history), and discrimination in the former Soviet Union. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Regards,
Lisa