

From: Hairapetian, Astghik

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 11:46 AM

To: Ethnic Studies

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Include Armenian-American Studies in the ESMC

Dear Honorable Members of the CDE,

I write to you today in support of Armenian-American Studies in the ESMC. Our community today is under attack and historically marginalized within the United States. Please do not marginalize our histories in the curriculum.

Armenian-Americans make up over 1 million people in the United States, with the largest community residing in California. Armenian-Americans have a long history of experiences of marginalization, migration, racialization, refugeehood, surveillance, and lack of equitable access to education, health and employment in the United States. Many Armenian-American students are immigrants and refugees, or their children, and English Language Learners. They continue to be impacted by a curriculum that marginalizes their histories and needs.

During Azerbaijan's war of aggression on the Armenian civilians of Artsakh in the fall of 2020, Armenian communities in California faced a number of hate crimes, including arson at an [Armenian church](#) and the vandalism of an [Armenian school](#) in San Francisco. It is imperative that the Armenian-American story be taught in order to prevent such hate crimes in our state in the future.

We urge the IQC and the CDE to center Ethnic Studies Scholars and practitioners in the writing of the model curriculum. As a concerned community member I am calling on you to bring Armenian-American Studies scholars who do Ethnic Studies to the table and incorporate Armenian-American Studies in the main curriculum.

Thank you,
Astghik