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30 Years After

ETTA

Rhoda Goldman Plaza



January 21, 2021

State Board of Education
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Dear Members of the State Board of Education:

On behalf of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC), we want to express our appreciation to the Instructional Quality Commission for approving many of the California Department of Education's recommendations on the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum at the November 2020 meeting. JPAC is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation. We advocate in Sacramento on behalf of a diverse representation of the California Jewish community, which includes Jewish Federations and Jewish Community Relations Councils, Jewish Family Service agencies, and many other Jewish community organizations that advocate for and directly serve the California Jewish community and the people of California at large.

The Third Field Revision is a significant improvement over previous drafts, and brought the model curriculum into much greater alignment with your Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Guidelines, California's Education Code, and the vision for ethnic studies laid out in AB 1616. We applaud the addition of new sample lessons representing California's diverse racial and ethnic communities in Appendix A. In particular, we appreciate the inclusion of Lesson 40: *Antisemitism and Jewish Middle Eastern-Americans* and Lesson 41: *Jewish Americans: Identity, Intersectionality, and Complicating Ideas of Race*. These and other new lessons add depth, new perspectives, and make important connections that will enrich the educational experience of all students in an ethnic studies classroom.

We greatly value the opportunity to comment on this draft. The enclosed review offers specific suggestions for strengthening consistency, clarity, and alignment across chapters. It also highlights a number of important changes made by the IQC, which we support and strongly recommend be retained in the final model curriculum. We appreciate the removal of denigrating content on Jews, Israelis, and Israel from the draft, and trust that you will ensure that efforts to reinsert hateful and divisive content are rejected. We appreciate the clear commitments made by State Board President Dr. Darling-Hammond, Superintendent Thurmond, and Governor Newsom regarding the model curriculum living up to California values, standards, and law. With high numbers of antisemitic incidents nationwide and in

California, we ask for your continued vigilance against the reinsertion of content that directly or indirectly seeks to divide and indoctrinate, rather than lift up, build understanding, and foster critical thinking.

The following signatories and JPAC member organizations are grateful to the members of the State Board of Education for your consideration of the recommended changes detailed in the enclosed review by the Institute for Curriculum Services. We appreciate your time and dedication, and the opportunity to provide input. We look forward to participating in the process and to seeing the adoption of a high-quality Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum that will enrich the educational experience of all of California's students.

Sincerely,



Allison Gingold
Chair, Board of Directors, JPAC




Julie Zeisler
Executive Director, JPAC



Tyler Gregory
Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties



Danny Grossman
CEO, Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund (Bay Area)



Jay Sanderson
President & CEO, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles



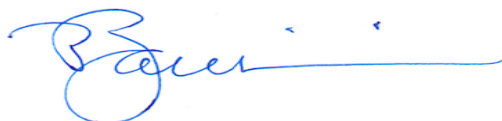
Diane Fisher
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Cyndi Silverman
Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Santa Barbara



Lisa Armony
Director, The Rose Project, Jewish Federation and Family Services Orange County

Cc:

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Honorable Jose Medina, Assemblymember

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Assemblymember, Chair, California Legislative Jewish Caucus

The Honorable Scott Wiener, State Senator, Vice-Chair, California Legislative Jewish Caucus

Jamie Callahan, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

Brooks Allen, Executive Director, California State Board of Education

Dr. Stephanie Gregson, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

Shanine Coats, Executive Director, Instructional Quality Commission and Director of the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division

Dr. Kenneth McDonald, Lead Consultant for the 2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum