

**JPAC Board of Directors**

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco

Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, and Sonoma Counties

Jewish Federation of San Diego

Jewish Family Service of San Diego

Jewish Long Beach

Jewish Community Relations Council of Silicon Valley

Family Services of Silicon Valley

Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region

Jewish Community Relations Council Sacramento

Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara

Jewish Federation and Family Services of Orange County

Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay

Anti-Defamation League

American Jewish Committee

Hadassah

Bet Tzedek

Holocaust Museum Los Angeles

JVS SoCal

30 Years After

ETTA

Rhoda Goldman Plaza



September 30, 2020

Instructional Quality Commission  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Dear Members of the Instructional Quality Commission:

On behalf of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC), we want to express our appreciation to the California Department of Education for listening to public comment and heeding the calls by the State Board of Education leadership and Governor Newsom to make significant changes to the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum in order to improve its alignment with the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Guidelines, Education Code, and vision as set out in AB 2016.

We greatly value the opportunity to comment on this draft. The enclosed review provides recommendations aimed at ensuring internal consistency and alignment—and corrects for critical omissions. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring high quality public education in general and for your commitment to improving the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, in particular, so that it is of the highest quality and adheres to California values, standards, and law.

JPAC is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation. We advocate in Sacramento on behalf of our members, which are comprised of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Relations Councils, Jewish Family Service agencies, and many Jewish community organizations.

CDE's revised Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is a commendable improvement over the first draft, and yet, the second draft also requires revision. In particular, we recommend:

- the addition of a keyword definition for antisemitism consistent with other keyword definitions
- the addition of language from the Education Code and History-Social Science Framework that protects students, supports an atmosphere of open inquiry, and will ultimately allow ethnic studies classrooms to achieve the desired positive outcomes expressed in the model curriculum
- the addition of a lesson highlighting the experiences and diversity of Jewish Americans, including Jews of color and Jews from the Middle East

While we were shocked by the inclusion of denigrating content on Jews, Israelis, and Israel in the first draft, and glad to see the removal of such hateful content in the second draft, we ask for your continued vigilance against the reinsertion of such material, particularly when, in 2019, California saw the highest number of antisemitic incidents in recent years.

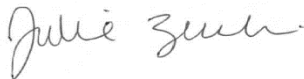
JPAC is writing on behalf of the following organizations: Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties; Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund (Bay Area); Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley; Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region; Jewish Long Beach; Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys; Rose Project of the Jewish Federation and Family Services Orange County; Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara; and Jewish Federation of Ventura County.

Our organizations are grateful to you, the members of the Instructional Quality Commission, for your consideration of the recommended changes detailed in the enclosed review. 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 lift up and enrich the educational experience of all California students.

Sincerely,



Lynn Bunim  
Chair  
Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC)



Julie Zeisler  
Executive Director  
Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (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 Foundation (Bay Area)



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



Diane Fisher  
Director, Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley



William Recht  
Executive Director, Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region



Jason Moss  
Executive Director, Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys



Zachary M. Benjamin  
Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Long Beach



Cheri DeKofsky  
Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Ventura County



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 Ben Allen, State Senator, IQC member  
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Assemblymember  
Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President of the California State Board of Education  
Ann O'Leary, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Jamie Callahan, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Brooks Allen, Executive Director of the California State Board of Education  
Dr. Stephanie Gregson, Chief Deputy to State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Shanine Coats, Executive Director of the 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