



**Yolo County Board of Education and
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools**

**Resolution #21/22-54
Supporting Ethnic Studies Implementation**

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Office of Education seeks to provide a quality education that allows students to see themselves, their families, and their communities in the curriculum and affirms students' cultural identity, enabling them to make critical connections between classroom learning and home and community life; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2021, the California State Board of Education approved the nation's first statewide Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum for high schools, which provides guidance for implementing ethnic studies as a stand-alone course, integrated into existing courses, and/or as a thematic/comparative race and ethnic studies approach; and

WHEREAS, the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is aimed at empowering students by illuminating the often-told struggles and contributions of Native Americans, African Americans, Latino/a/x Americans, and Asian Americans in California, and includes lessons on other groups, including Sikh, Armenian, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Laotian and Jewish Americans; and

WHEREAS, upon passage of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond noted that, "California's students have been telling us for years that they need to see themselves and their stories represented in the classroom. By fostering our understanding of the struggles and achievements of people of color, ethnic studies benefit students of all backgrounds—and that is why today's work is so important;" and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 101, Chapter 661, approved by the Governor on October 8, 2021, amending Sections 51225.3 and 51226.7 of the Education Code, requires students graduating in the 2029-30 school year to satisfy an ethnic studies course requirement by completing either (1) a course based on the model curriculum in ethnic studies developed by the commission, (2) an existing ethnic studies course, (3) an ethnic studies course taught as part of a course that has been approved as meeting the A-G requirements of the University of California and the California State University, or (4) a locally developed ethnic studies course approved by the governing board of the school district or the governing body of the charter school; and

WHEREAS, a Stanford University study in 2021 indicated that ethnic studies curriculum in high schools has demonstrated an increase in GPA across disciplines, high school graduation rates, attendance, college-going rates, and a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the study also showed that ethnic studies curriculum helps to narrow the achievement gap and the opportunity gap for students of color as well as benefits white students; and

WHEREAS, a National Education Association research review in 2011 affirmed that an interdisciplinary ethnic studies course helps foster cross-cultural understanding among both students of color and white students, as well as aiding students in valuing their own cultural identity while appreciating the differences around them; and

WHEREAS, ethnic studies allows students to see themselves, their families, and their communities in the curriculum and affirms students' cultural identity, enabling them to make critical connections between classroom learning and home and community life; and

WHEREAS, ethnic studies is intended to deepen our students' sense of shared histories, the significant contributions of historically marginalized people, and help our students understand and appreciate the rich histories, cultural contributions and involvement in civic engagement of various communities that challenge all forms of oppression; and

WHEREAS, based on data from the California Department of Education, 68 percent of students in Yolo County are identified from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds, with data showing students identify as Hispanic or Latino (48.0%), Asian (10.2%), two or more races (5%), African American (2.7%), Filipino (1.1%), Pacific Islander (0.5%), and American Indian or Alaska Native (0.5%); and

WHEREAS, YCOE has demonstrated a commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity, with the convening of the Yolo California Indian Curriculum and Professional Learning Advisory Group serving as one such example; and

WHEREAS, YCOE has led and developed professional development opportunities for educators and the community on the ethnic studies high school graduation requirement and the model curriculum; and

WHEREAS, YCOE supports learning aligned with ethnic studies and civic engagement and strives to develop initiatives which develop students' critical world view and understanding of their place in the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools hereby advocates for, supports and defends the requirement of local education agencies, including YCOE, to implement an ethnic studies course as a graduation requirement for students graduating in the 2029-30 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools call on educational leaders in California, such as the Governor, Legislature, the California Department of Education, and the State Board of Education, to provide local schools and districts with adequate resources and opportunities to achieve the key principles and outcomes of ethnic studies teaching and learning; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools call upon educators and the community to participate in professional development opportunities on ethnic studies, such as those provided by YCOE and/or other organizations;


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools on June 28, 2022.

AYES: Esquivel, Moreno, Souza Cole, Yip, Zendejas

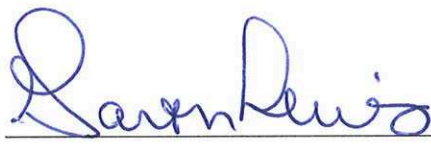
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Melissa Moreno, President
Yolo County Board of Education



Garth Lewis, Superintendent
Yolo County Office of Education