

**BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-049
AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF AB 2016
CALIFORNIA ETHNIC STUDIES MODEL CURRICULUM DRAFT**

WHEREAS, Berkeley High School has offered its students a wide variety of courses that center on the experiences of people of color, and a new semester-long course in Ethnic Studies as part of its two-year old U9 program; and

WHEREAS, students from a variety and mixture of ethnic and racial backgrounds make up approximately 62% percent of the student population in Berkeley Unified and approximately 11% of the students have a home language other than English; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Unified School District has a commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that Ethnic Studies curriculum in high schools has demonstrated an increase in GPA across disciplines, high school graduation rates, college-going rates, and a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, studies show that Ethnic Studies curriculum helps to narrow the achievement gap and the opportunity gap for students of color as well as benefiting white students; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies enhances equity in the school curriculum; and

WHEREAS, CA Education Code Section 51204.5 prescribes the inclusion of the legacies of ethnic and cultural groups who have contributed to the history, economic political, and social development of California and the United States, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society; and

WHEREAS, CA AB2016 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) is currently in process at the California Department of Education (CDE); and

WHEREAS, the current CA AB2016 ESMC draft has vast support from communities of color and intergenerational recognized Ethnic Studies educators and leaders across California and beyond, and

WHEREAS, California has one of the largest and most diverse student populations in the nation with 77% identified as students of color; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District affirms support of the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Draft.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Berkeley Unified School District affirms support for Pacific Islander Studies, Arab American Studies and Central American Studies and their continued inclusion in the ESMC curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Berkeley Unified School affirms support for the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum maintaining its framing and guiding language of the discipline, with additional scaffolding as necessary to be inclusive and supportive of multiple users.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the work of the Save CA Ethnic Studies Coalition in bringing together the experts to address any issues.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Education of the Berkeley Unified School District of the County of Alameda, the 22 day of April, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSTAINS:

ABSENT:

President of the Board of Trustees
Berkeley Unified School District
Alameda County, California