

SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 35/19-20

**AFFIRMING SUPPORT OF AB 2016 CALIFORNIA ETHNIC STUDIES MODEL
CURRICULUM DRAFT**

WHEREAS, there are 92 languages other than English spoken throughout the state of California and has one of the largest and most diverse students populations in the nation with 77% identified as students of color; and

WHEREAS, students from a variety of ethnic and racial backgrounds make up the student population of the San Mateo – Foster City School District

WHEREAS, in the San Mateo – Foster City School District over 30 languages spoken, 25% of the students are English Learners and 77% are students of color; and

WHEREAS, the Vision of the San Mateo – Foster City School District states that the District educates, inspires and empowers every student in every school every day to live, lead and learn with integrity and joy; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo – Foster City School District has a commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity; and has enacted policies and established committees to support all students in our District; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of academic research that shows the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum; 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 benefits white students; and

WHEREAS, based on the National Education Association (NEA) publication, *The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies*, the inclusion of Ethnic Studies in a curriculum has a positive impact on students of color; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies benefit students in observable ways, such as students becoming more academically engaged, increasing their performance on academic tests and developing a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment;

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo – Foster City School District affirms support of the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Draft; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Mateo – Foster City School District affirms support for Pacific Islander Studies, Arab American Studies, Central American Studies, and West Asian American Studies and their continued inclusion in the ESMC curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Mateo – Foster City School District affirms support for the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum maintaining its framing and 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 Board of Trustees of the San Mateo – Foster City School District on this 18th day of June, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

ATTEST: _____
Secretary of the Board