

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 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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NOES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Board