



Resolution No. 2019/20-78

Date: June 24, 2020

Santa Rosa City Schools
Resolution Number 2019/20-78

Ethnic Studies in Santa Rosa City Schools

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools has a commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools launched an Equity Initiative in the spring of 2015; and

WHEREAS, since 2015 1200 Santa Rosa City Schools staff have participated in Professional Development through: the Museum of Tolerance Tools for Tolerance for Educators; the California Teachers Association Unconscious Bias training; the Teaching Tolerance Standards for Social Justice training; the National Equity Project; Acosta Educational Partnership; and other well-respected consultants in the area of equity and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Trustees' mission ensures equitable access to a transformative educational experience grounded in the assets of our students, staff, and community and commits to nurture the whole student in an engaging, challenging, and safe environment; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Trustees' vision ensures that students enter the world empowered to find purpose, think critically, embrace diversity, work together, and adapt to our changing planet, and live healthy and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees acknowledges the academic research that associates the overwhelming dominance of Euro-American perspectives in textbooks, curricula and instruction and marginalization of scholarship and accomplishments by people of color as contributors to disengagement from academic learning of many students of color; and

WHEREAS, in the 2019-20 school year, the California Department of Education DataQuest program shows that in Santa Rosa City Schools 73% of elementary students are non-white, including 32% English Learners; and 66% of secondary students are non-white, including 12% English Learners; and

WHEREAS, substantial research done by the National Education Association and Stanford University found that high school students who participated in an ethnic studies course showed positive academic and personal outcomes for students, including: closing the opportunity gap, reducing student truancy, increasing student retention, reducing dropout rates, increasing graduation rates, and developing a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic studies pedagogy humanizes all people by honoring the cultural wealth of historically underserved groups, by critically analyzing systems of oppression, and by promoting action in solidarity with others to transform students' lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools recognized the importance of and is committed towards implementing an Ethnic Studies curriculum in our schools; and

WHEREAS, current board policy states that we will adopt curriculum and instructional materials that accurately reflect the diversity among student groups; and

WHEREAS, current board policy analyzes expenditures and allocates financial and human resources in a manner that provides all students with equitable access to district programs, support services, and opportunities for success and promotes equity and inclusion in the district. Such resources include access to high-quality administrators, teachers, and other school personnel; funding; technology, equipment, textbooks, and other instructional materials; facilities; and community resources or partnerships. and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Rosa City Schools District supports the addition of Ethnic Studies to the TK-12 District. and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Santa Rosa City Schools will add UC/CSU approved Ethnic Studies courses to its high school catalogue and will support the infusion of Ethnic Studies in elementary and middle schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the governing board of education directs the superintendent to provide TK-12 professional development to ensure quality culturally responsive pedagogy, curriculum and instructional materials.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Alegria De La Cruz, Clerk of the Board