

# ETHNIC STUDIES IN BUSD



**Presenters: Adelita Martinez, Hasmig Minassian, Dana Moran, Joemy Ito-Gates**

**Our goals for our time together:**

**Share where BUSD has been with Ethnic Studies**

**Provide an overview of our work this year**

**Answer questions and gather input from School Board members**

# Detailed Berkeley High School Ethnic Studies Timeline

**1990**

BUSD Ethnic Studies requirement enacted

**2001**

AC waives out of requirement with World Civilizations

**2018**

Formation of the U9 and schoolwide Ethnic Studies with common curriculum

*Between 2001-2015 Ethnic Studies was taught only in the small schools (AHA, AMPS, CAS, Green Academy)*

*comprising less than 25% of the total BHS student body*

**1993**

Principal Jim Henderson hires teachers specifically to teach Ethnic Studies

**2004**

BIHS waives out of requirement with Global Studies

**2015**

AC and BIHS teachers volunteer to teach Ethnic Studies as a one semester class

# Universal 9th Grade Ethnic Studies, 1 semester

**Essential Question: Who Am I and How Do I Fit Into This Diverse Society?**

**Units: Culture, Immigration, Race**

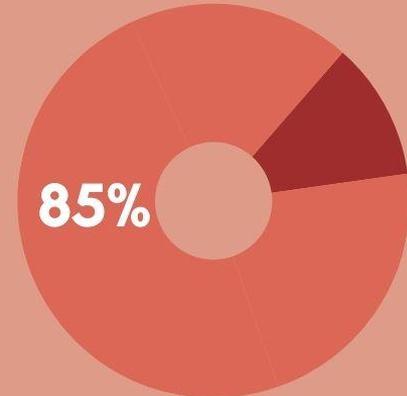
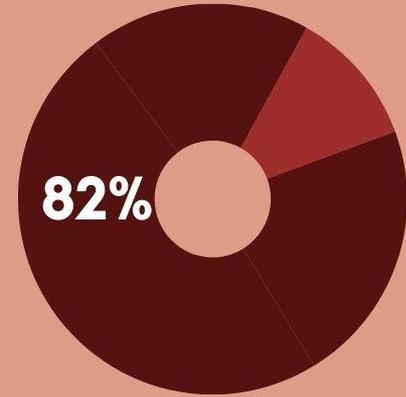
**Common Assessments: Life Maps, Ethnic Culture Presentations, Immigration and Race Essays, Final Research Project: 'Zine or Podcast**

**Taught By: Hive Teachers (7) + 1 MLP Section**

# Spring of 2021 Ethnic Studies Data from BHS

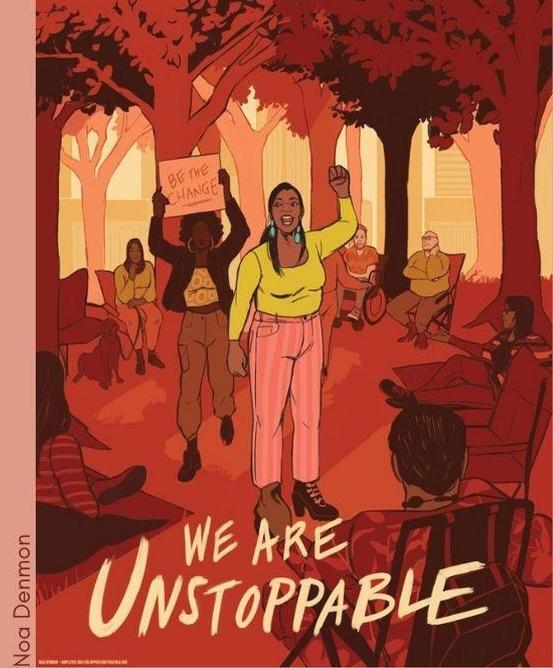
OUT OF 314 STUDENTS WHO RESPONDED...

- **82% said that they can explain race as a social construct by teaching it to others and/or know what this is and they can think of examples**
- **85% said that they can describe cultural appropriation and analyze examples by teaching it to others and/or know what this is and they can think of examples**



# Elective Courses That Students Can Take After Universal 9th Grade Ethnic Studies:

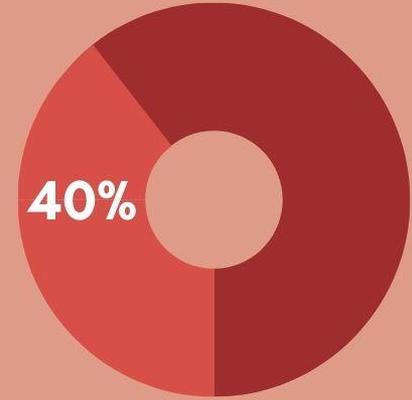
- Latinx Literature
- Latinx History
- African American History
- African American Literature
- African Diaspora Dance & Drumming
- Black Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology
- Black Economics
- Coming soon: Asian American & Pacific Islander Literature



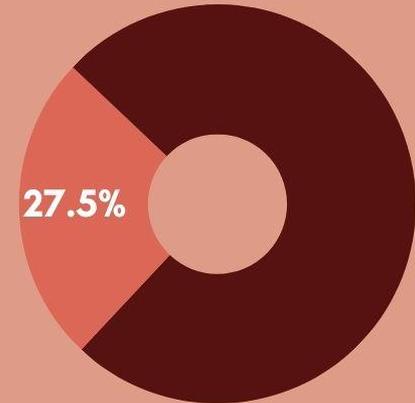
# Senior Year Electives Data

OUT OF APPROXIMATELY 112 ELECTIVES...

- **40% of African American seniors are taking Ethnic Studies electives**

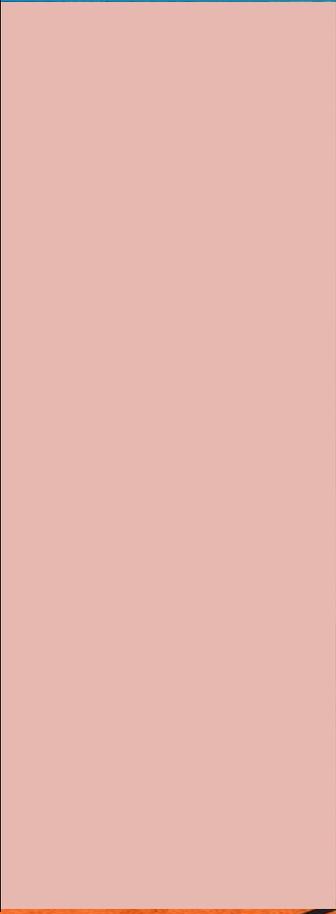
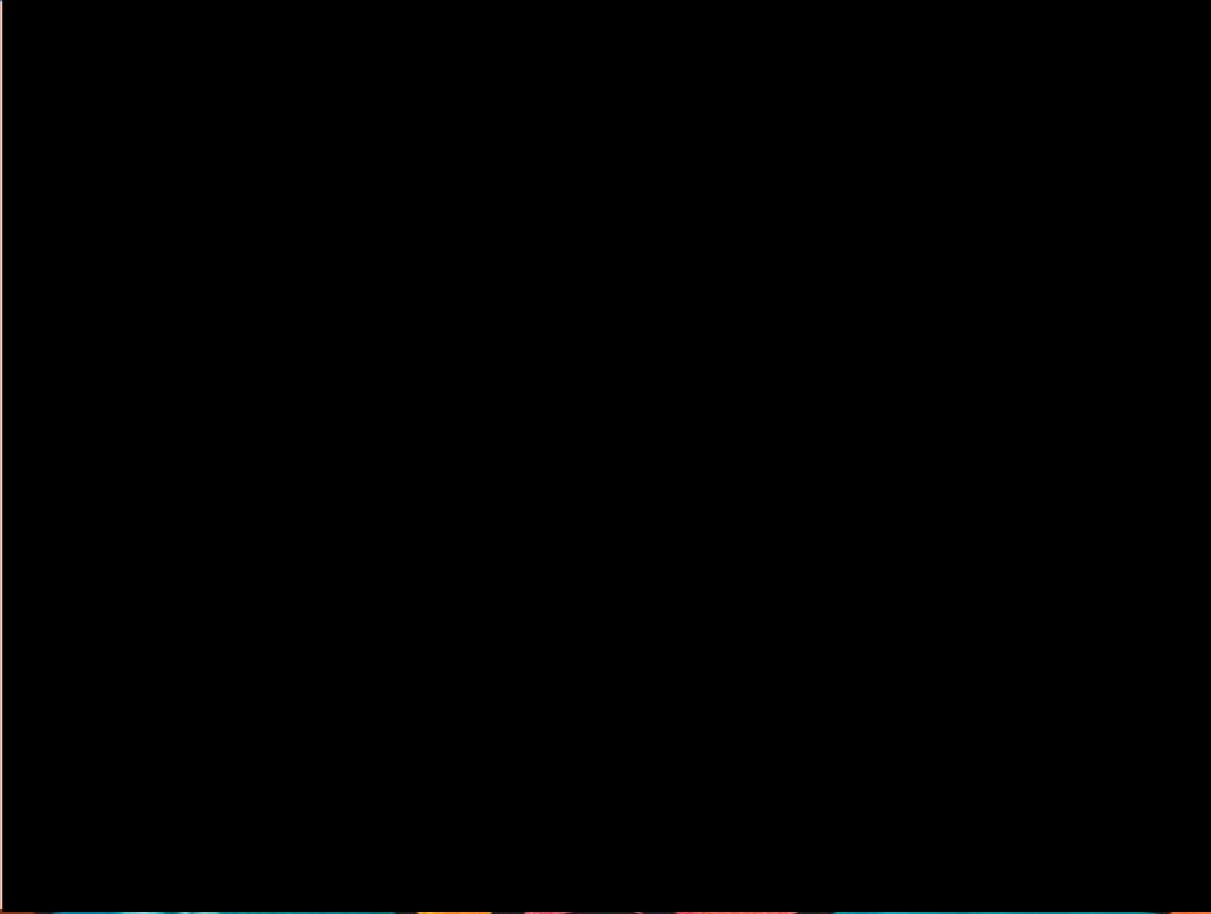


- **27.5% of Latinx seniors are taking Ethnic Studies electives**



*(All numbers include independent study)*

# BHS STUDENT VOICES: WHY ETHNIC STUDIES MATTERS

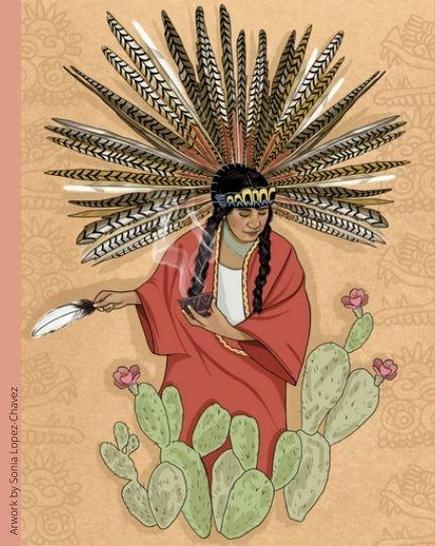


# 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



# AB 101 for Ethnic Studies was signed into law on October 8, 2021

- 1 semester of Ethnic Studies is required for graduation
- Classes must be offered by 2025-2026; the mandate will come into effect in 2029-2030
- Our existing Ethnic Studies class in Universal 9th grade meets the requirement



# Benefits of Ethnic Studies

identity

agency

academic motivation

wellness

attendance

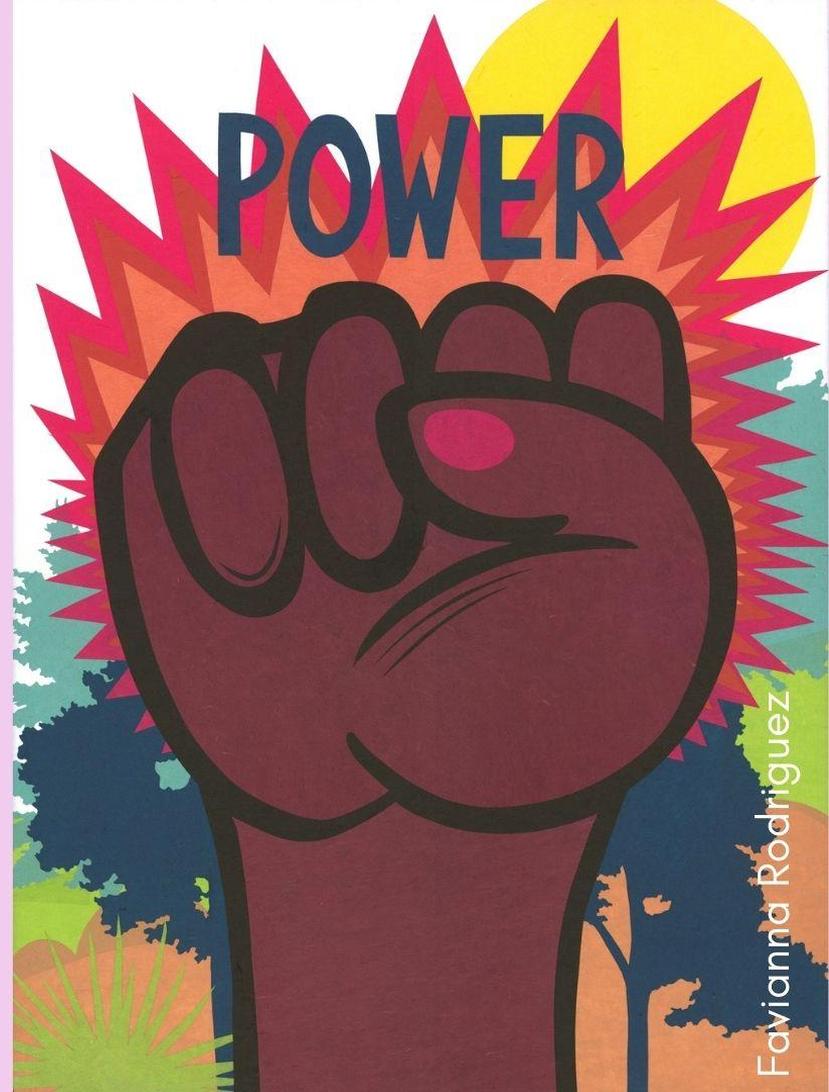
GPA & test scores  
(esp. math/science)

graduation &  
college enrollment

trust

critical thinking skills

historical/  
ancestral knowledge



**On 10/11/21 over 600 BUSD staff members engaged in a professional development session about Ethnic Studies. Of the 295 people who completed the survey, 95% of people agree or somewhat agree that the Ethnic Studies session gave them an opportunity to reflect on practice.**

**Here's what some people said:**

**"The ethnic studies work in the morning was the highlight because it made it clear that our district thinks this is important."**

**"The ethnic studies presentation was so meaningful and you provided us with so many great resources. One of my colleagues and I stayed well after the day was over to plan lessons and discuss what we learned."**

**"I will center work around ethnic studies, intersectionality, equity in coaching with teachers and have a better understanding of what teachers have already been exposed to and how to weave this work into practices."**

## October - January

- **Hold Listening Sessions with various stakeholder groups**
- **Gather community input from families, teachers, staff, and community members on the vision for TK-12th grade Ethnic Studies in BUSD via online surveys**
- **Meet with administrators to gather input on what is already happening at sites and receive input on the vision for Ethnic Studies**
- **Form a network across districts to learn from what others are doing**

*TSA position is paid for via BSEP*

## November-May

- **Possibly partner with Ohlone women led organization, Sogorea Te' Land Trust to co-create units of study for upper elementary grades**
- **Launch upper elementary Teacher Collectives where teams of teachers integrate Ethnic Studies into curriculum and pilot these units to increase internal capacity**

## **December-May**

- **Launch a monthly opt-in Ethnic Studies professional development workshop series for TK-8th grade certificated and classified teaching staff**
- **Continue and expand the Ethnic Studies ambassador/bridge program so older students can teach Ethnic Studies lessons and activities in younger grade classrooms**

Heritage/  
History Month  
teaching guides and  
family guides in  
English & Spanish are  
emailed to our  
community



A monthly  
Ethnic Studies Newsletter  
with teaching resources is sent out



Ethnic Studies Website:  
<https://busdethnicstudies.weebly.com/>

**BUSD FILIPINX AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH  
TK-8 TEACHING RESOURCES**

Compiled by Jennifer Rodriguez, Ethnic Studies TEA in collaboration with Learning Resource Center, National Historical Landmark and other local organizations

**GET INTERSECTIONAL\***

- ARTICLE:** "Are you Filipinx or Filippa?"
- VIDEO:** **LEARN** Filipino Americans to celebrate
- VIDEO:** "How do we Unlearn Mr. Goodbars in Filina Culture?"
- VIDEO:** about Indigenous people of the Philippines
- VIDEO:** about Civil Rights in the Fight Against Anti-Bullying!

**EXPAND KNOWLEDGE**

- READ** about the origins of Filipina American History Month, which was recognized by the U.S. Congress in 2009
- VIDEO:** about why it is called a History Month and not a Heritage Month.
- VIDEO:** about the history of Filipina American History Month
- VIDEO:** about the history of the San Francisco Labor
- VIDEO:** about Filipina combatants in the Farm Labor Movement
- VIDEO:** to the author, Long Drive

**FILIPINX FOR**

**BY RESISTANCE BY STATE**

**BUSD LATINE/X HERITAGE MONTH  
TK-8 TEACHING RESOURCES**

Compiled by Jenny Ho-Sonay, Ethnic Studies TEA in collaboration with the Professional Development Team

**GET INTERSECTIONAL\***

- SHORT READ** on Latinx vs. Latine.
- SHORT READ** on the diversity of Latinx identities.
- SHORT READ** on honoring LGBTQBIQS+ voices during Latinx/x Heritage Month.
- VIDEO:** of inspiring Afro Latinx/ Women.
- VIDEO:** on Indigeneity and Latinx

**EXPAND KNOWLEDGE**

Deepen knowledge about Latinx before teaching by exploring these **videos and resources** from PBS

**CREATE**

Create clear welcoming identities with trellis Amplify

**FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO TO CELEBRATE  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S HERITAGE MONTH  
BUSD FAMILY GUIDE**

Compiled by Jenny Rodriguez, Ethnic Studies TEA in collaboration with Learning Resource Center

**1. LISTEN**

Listen to the lived experiences of Indigenous People

- VIDEO:** **LEARN** Native and Black identity by Andrea the author, Queerqueer, Beity
- VIDEO:** on the meaning of a Spirit
- VIDEO:** on the Afro-Indigenous Experience
- VIDEO:** of Chinese Youth (Summer) Tule Band, Yopogues

**2. LEARN**

Learn About the Indigenous People Where We Live & Learn

- VIDEO:** of Contra Ombra Bandera of Segregos Te Land Trust
- VIDEO:** Native Peoples of the East Bay Past & Present
- VIDEO:** "The Song" performed by Anthony Qui & Jeffrey
- VIDEO:** "Spirit of the Land" performed by Anthony Qui & Red Star

**3. LIFT UP**

Lift up and Celebrate Indigenous Cultures With Your Family

- VIDEO:** on the song "This is Ohlone Land" by the Ohlone
- VIDEO:** the California Indian Museum & Cultural Center in Sutter Home
- VIDEO:** Ohlone food of Cale Ohlone
- VIDEO:** made together, created by the Berkeley Unified Library Team
- VIDEO:** with Amah Mokuin Land Trust

**4. LOVE**

Love an Local Indigenous Organizations

- GET INVOLVED** with Segregos Te Land Trust
- VIDEO:** the preservation of sacred Shellmounds in West Berkeley
- VIDEO:** in local Indigenous businesses of the Indigenous Red Market in Oakland

**BUSD ETHNIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER**

**Student Voices**

**Why Ethnic Studies Matters**

By **Senior Ajayna Mascarenhas-Swani**

Everyday from the streets, "Ethnic Studies Curriculum should be required in all California High Schools" taught in the everyday textbook. It teaches them how to question and critique standards everyone else might consider normal, and to stand up and speak out when they see something that's wrong. These values taught in Ethnic Studies can be kept with students for the rest of their life, throughout any career, and their formal education, save at this, we can already see how the class has furthered a student's leadership role. By ensuring that students have access to this knowledge and skills now, we create a more aware, prepared future for generations to come.

**READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE**

**Latine/x Heritage Month Resources**

Latine/x Heritage Month continues this month through October 31st. You are invited to utilize the 2023 resource guide throughout October and beyond.

**RESOURCES**

- VIDEO:** **LEARN** on the meaning of a Spirit
- VIDEO:** on the Afro-Indigenous Experience
- VIDEO:** of Chinese Youth (Summer) Tule Band, Yopogues

**BUSD ETHNIC STUDIES WEBSITE**

**LEARN MORE**

Approved by the Board of Trustees (District Board) Public Schools, District 204

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

