

ETHNIC STUDIES IN BUSD



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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

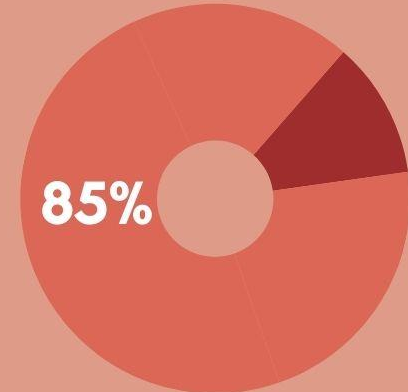
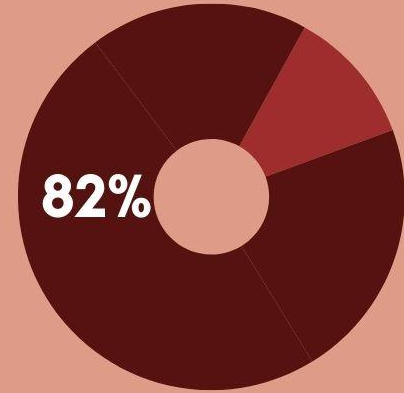
Common Assessments: Life Maps, Ethnic Culture Presentations, Immigration and Race Essays, Final Research Project: 'Zine or Podcast

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

Spring of 2021 Ethnic Studies Data from BHS

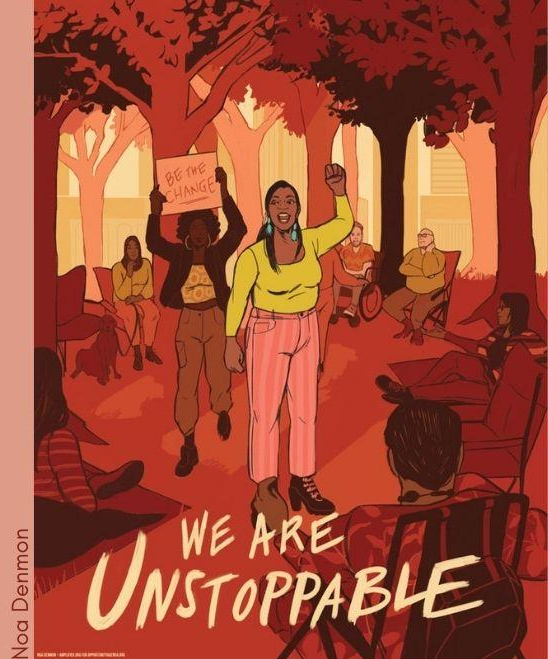
OUT OF 314 STUDENTS WHO RESPONDED...

- **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:

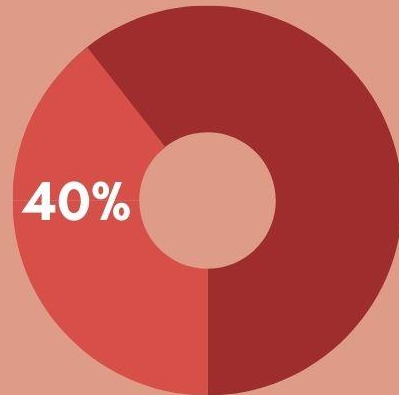
- Latinx Literature
- Latinx History
- African American History
- African American Literature
- African Diaspora Dance & Drumming
- Black Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology
- Black Economics
- Coming soon: Asian American & Pacific Islander Literature



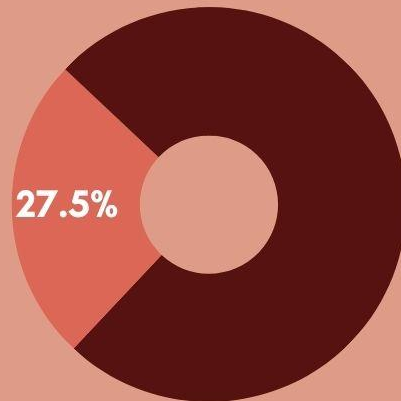
Senior Year Electives Data

OUT OF APPROXIMATELY 112 ELECTIVES...

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

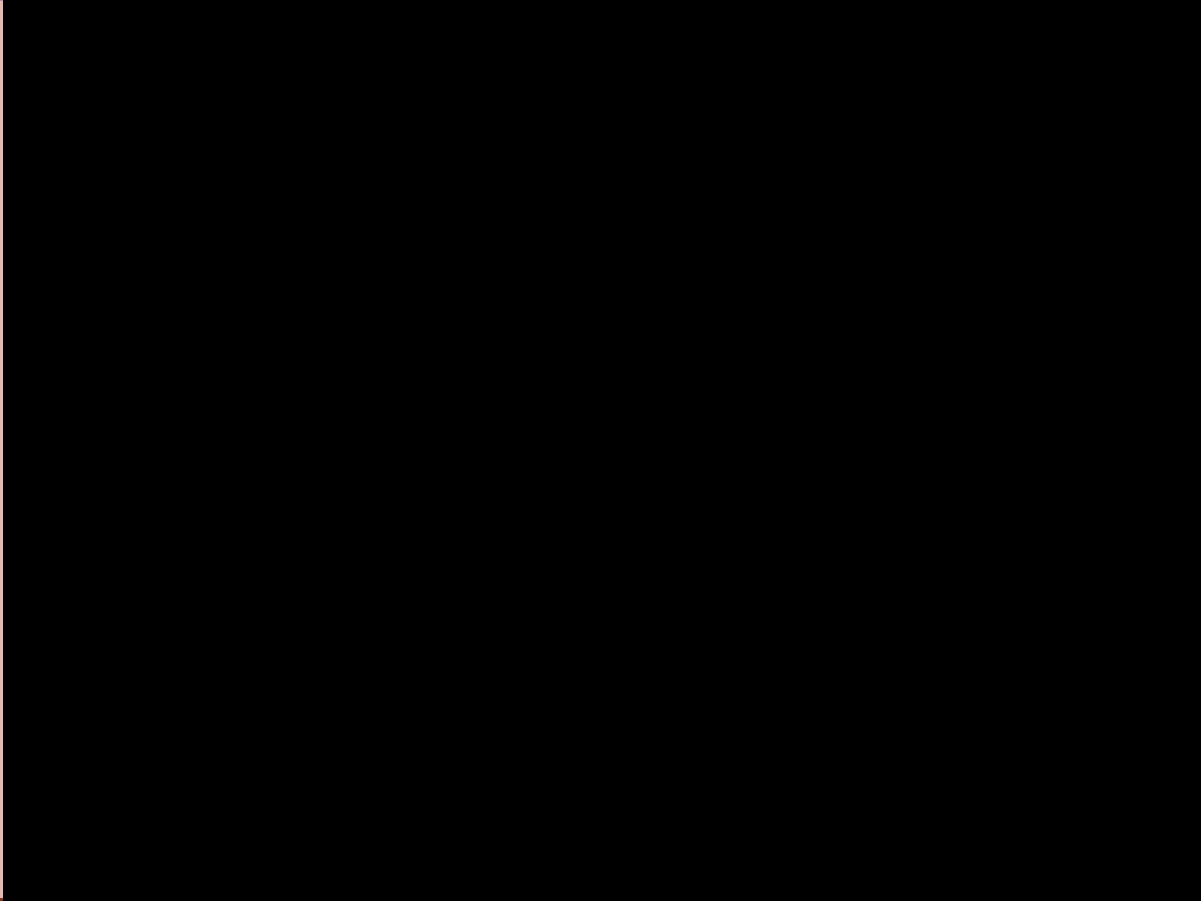


- **27.5% of Latinx seniors are taking Ethnic Studies electives**



(All numbers include independent study)

BHS STUDENT VOICES: WHY ETHNIC STUDIES MATTERS

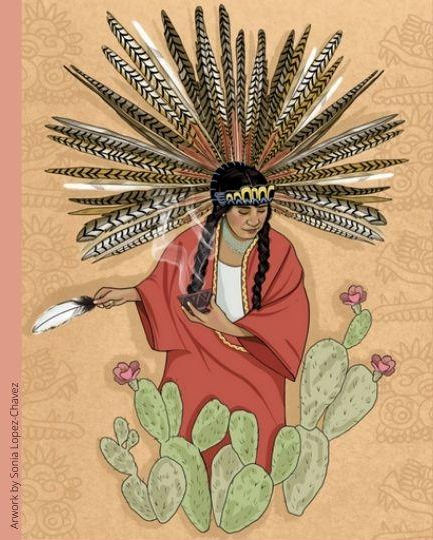


2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



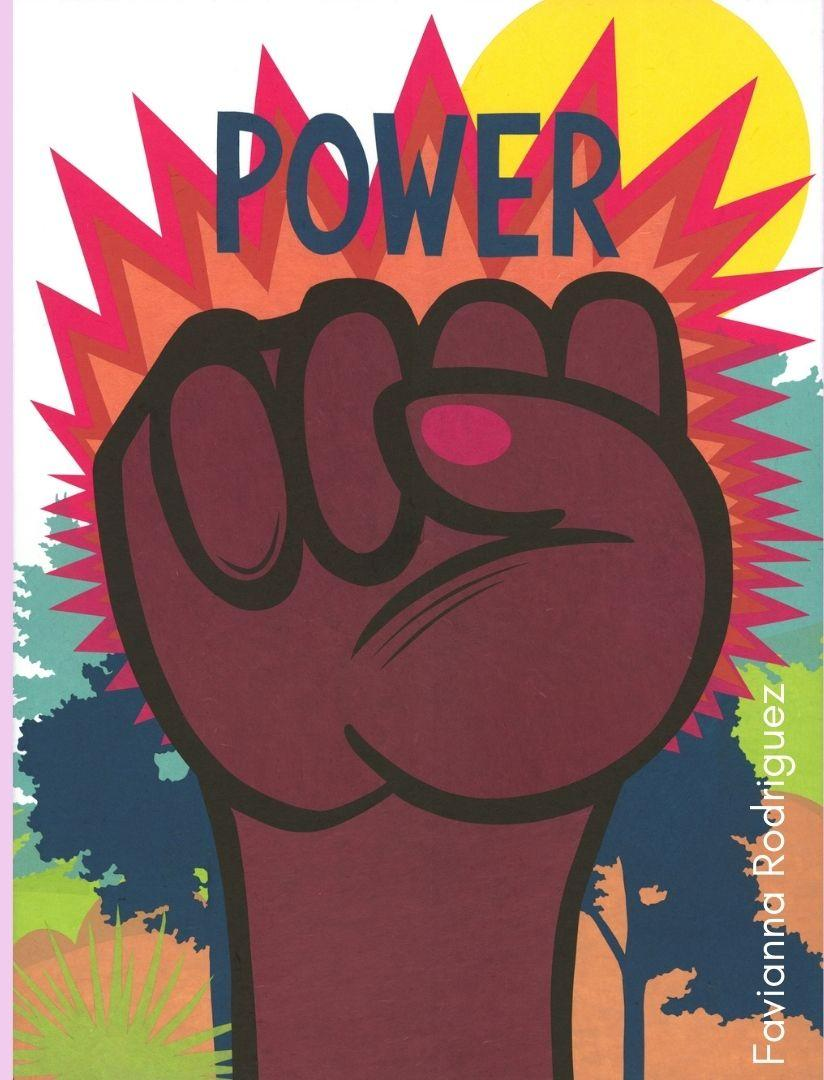
AB 101 for Ethnic Studies was signed into law on October 8, 2021

- 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/>



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

