

# **Ethnic Studies and Santa Rosa City Schools**

November 14, 2018

# SRCS Theory of Action

**If** we improve the quality of practice **through the** continuous development of leadership capacity to:

- Facilitate the development of a sense of purpose
- Recognize and implement quality instruction
- Lead and guide focused professional learning
- Confront and address issues of equity and access
- Provide and strengthen social and emotional supports
- Engage in problem-solving through an inquiry cycle for growth
- Ensure warm, safe, dry schools and facilities
- Utilize data to inform the inquiry cycle for growth
- Target and align resources

**Then,** we have much work to do as a district. **No longer will student outcomes be predicted based on race, differently abled, socioeconomic status, and/or the language is spoken at home.**

# Ethnic Studies Exploration Committee

Gabriel Albavera	Principal, EAHS
Rachel Ambrose	Ethnic Studies Teacher, Analy High School
Regina Brennan	SRCS Social Studies Teacher, retired
Elizabeth Evans	Coordinator, Teaching and Learning
Stephanie Graham Rivas	SRCS Equity Consultant
Veronica Hernandez	Spanish Teacher, SRHS
Jergen Kremer	Professor and Author, Ethnic Studies, SRJC and SSU
Aja LaDuke	Professor, SSU School of Education
Michelle Mazzeo	Former Director, Global Perspectives Program, SSU
Bonnie Raines	District TOSA, SRCS
Kathy Shanklin	Teacher, English - HCMS
Hector Soto	Assistant Principal, LCMS

# Work of the Committee

Mission High School Visits



Teachers 4 Social Justice Conference

XITO Conference—Napa Valley College



# History of Ethnic Studies

**1903** - W.E.B DuBois suggests teaching Black History

**1969** - College of Ethnic Studies Established at San Francisco State College after protests in the previous school year close the school

**1972** - National Association for Ethnic Studies was established

**1994** - Berkeley High School becomes one of the first high schools to offer Ethnic Studies

**2014** - The El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD)- first CA school district in to require ethnic studies as a graduation requirement

**2015** - CA legislature introduces Ethnic Studies bill

**2016** - SRCS Ethnic Studies Exploration Committee convenes



# Timeline

**SRCS Equity Initiative work begins with MOT and Unconscious Bias PD.**

**SRCS and Community Members Discuss Ethnic Studies**

2015

**SRCS Ethnic Studies Exploration Committee convenes**

2016

**CA legislature introduces an Ethnic Studies bill AB 2016**

**SRCS 650 staff and community have attended MOT; 450 have participated in Unconscious Bias PD.**

**SRCS Ethnic Studies committee continues.**

2017

**CA legislature amends AB 2016 with AB 2772 which would mandate Ethnic Studies become a grad requirement**

**SRCS Equity Curriculum Team begins collaboration with CCD.**

**SRCS Ethnic Studies Committee presents to the SRCS Board of Education**

2018

**Ethnic Studies bill AB 2772 is vetoed by Governor Brown**

2014

**LCAP is implemented  
El Rancho USD first CA school district to require Ethnic Studies**

# **SRCS Ethnic Studies Exploration Committee Recommendations**

- Identify teachers who will embed ethnic studies standards into their pre-equisiting courses
- Over the next four years, implement ethnic studies, K-12 into our pre-existing curriculum
- Offer Ethnic Studies through dual enrollment with SRJC
- Pilot Ethnic Studies through one of the core disciplines
- Integrate Ethnic Studies into Collaborative Curriculum Design (CCD) units
- Provide Ethnic Studies professional development to staff
- Provide Ethnic Studies as a topic in parent meetings such as ELAC/ DELAC

## The Why

“As students of color proceed through the school system, research finds that the overwhelming dominance of Euro-American perspectives leads many students to disengage from academic learning. Ethnic Studies curricula exist in part because students of color have demanded an education that is relevant, meaningful, and affirming of their identities.”

Christine Sleeter,  
Cal State University,  
Monterey Bay,  
Ethnic Studies





# Our Questions

- What changes shall we make to our professional learning content to support teaching Ethnic Studies curriculum?
- Should Ethnic Studies be an a-g elective and/or be imbedded into the core courses?
- Is it a course offered at all grade levels in a developmentally relative progression?
- What stakeholders additionally need to be involved in the changes to policies and programs in regards to Ethnic Studies?
- What are the barriers in our system for Ethnic Studies to move forward?
- Does our school schedule support the addition of another required elective?
- Policy by SRCS school board to require all K-12 curriculum to include: Ethnic Studies Standards, ELD Standards, and Advanced Learning opportunities?