



EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 37-2013/2014

**CULTURAL AWARENESS AND ETHNIC STUDIES
GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

Whereas, the El Rancho Unified School District seeks to provide a well-rounded and quality education that exposes students to cultures that are crucial to understanding our nation, past and present, and that helps our students to appreciate the rich histories and cultural contributions of their own communities; and

Whereas, there is a substantial research evidence that well designed and well taught ethnic studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for students; and

Whereas, the former Mexican American Studies program in Tucson, Arizona demonstrated significant strides in closing the achievement gap and increased academic achievement for all students; and

Whereas, the El Rancho Unified School District offers a Mexican American Heritage course within our curriculum to teach about the important contributions of Mexican Americans to our communities; and

Whereas, the current Mission of the El Rancho Unified School District is to prepare students as life long learners to succeed academically, intellectually, socially, emotionally and culturally;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the El Rancho Unified School District shall modify its existing graduation requirement to include a course in Cultural Awareness.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cultural Awareness requirement may be minimally fulfilled by a five credit, semester length A-G College approved Ethnic Studies course including the Mexican American Heritage class, which is already offered at El Rancho High School.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Cultural Awareness requirement and Ethnic Studies class will take the place of the current Geography course requirement.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Governing Board of Education directs the Superintendent to develop curriculum and provide professional development to ensure quality courses in Ethnic Studies that fulfill the cultural diversity requirement.

Adopted by the El Rancho Unified School District Governing Board of Education in Pico Rivera, California by Resolution No. 37-2013/2014, on this 17th day of June, 2014.

President of the Board of Education