

# Coalition to Defend Arab American Studies in California

## Arab American Studies IS Ethnic Studies!

*"[Ethnic Studies] is necessary to bridge the growing divide, and counter the racial and ethnic fear and hatred being sowed by the forces of ignorance and inequality." ~ 1969 Third World Liberation Front Hunger Strikers & Founders of California Ethnic Studies*

### **This is About Inclusion and Equity**

- We are educators, students, scholars, community-based organizations, and advocates across the state who have come together to support ethnic studies in California.
- California's Department of Education (CDE) is putting the finishing touches on a Curriculum for the state — known as the AB2016 CA Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum — which would bring Ethnic Studies education to public high schools throughout the state.
- The ESMC is structured around the core pillars developed by the founders of Ethnic studies in 1969: American Indian studies, Africana/Black studies, Chicana/Latina studies, and Asian American studies.
- Following a decades-long tradition in higher education, the ESMC includes Arab American studies within Asian American studies. Leading Asian American scholars, including the National Association of Asian American Studies, have issued statements defending the inclusion of Arab American studies in the CA ESMC.

### **Islamophobia and Anti-Arab Racism**

- Ethnic Studies is now under threat. There is an organized effort to remove Arab American studies from the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.
- At a time when Arab Americans are facing increased racism, Islamophobia, and bigotry from the Trump administration, it is unconscionable that outside interest groups are parroting that same racism and trying to remove Arab American studies from California schools.
- According to education scholar and Professor Christine Sleeter, "There is considerable research evidence that well-designed and well-taught Ethnic Studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for students. . . . Both students of color and white students have been found to benefit from Ethnic Studies." Including Arab American studies will only enlarge these benefits.

### **Arab American Studies IS Ethnic Studies!**

- The Arab American experience, including the struggle for racial, economic, and social justice in Palestine, is essential to the advancement of Ethnic Studies and its mission to "prepare students for an international, multicultural society."

**We need an Ethnic Studies curriculum that uplifts the stories of all communities of color impacted by oppression, one that builds solidarity across our common struggles. Ethnic Studies is an opportunity to change the conditions within our educational system to ensure that youth grow up empowered through their own history and in solidarity with others.**

***Support us in ensuring that the biggest education system in the US — California's — decides it's worth teaching the stories and social justice struggles of communities of color in the US!***

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