



LIBERATED ETHNIC STUDIES

MODEL CURRICULUM COALITION

January 29, 2022

Statement on how the LESMCC supports districts

The Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Coalition (LESMCC) is composed of expert educational practitioners, faculty, and scholars from throughout the state of California who have successfully developed ethnic studies curriculum, established departments, implemented programs, and published academic research that contributes to the field of ethnic studies. As a result, students of all races have seen an improvement in academic achievement, improved cross-cultural relations and made tremendous contributions to their respective communities.

The LESMCC focuses on four racialized communities of color that are aligned with the groups identified by both the California State Departments of Education and the California State University (CSU) Council of Ethnic Studies. The CSU Council of Ethnic Studies (2021) identifies the purpose of Ethnic Studies as the sharing and diffusion of the knowledge and critical understanding of the epistemologies, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, lived-experiences, and social struggles of the four historically racialized core ethnic groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and Latinx/a/os-Chicana/o/xs. Using the groups defined by each of the respective disciplines, the LESMCC curricular model includes lessons/unit plans on Chicana/Latinx, American Indian/Native Americans, African American/Black American, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Arab Americans. These lesson/unit plans provide examples for districts as they work to develop their own curriculum, and the LESMCC works in partnership to support the development and implementation of this process.

The LESMCC believes that by centering the stories and histories of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), we are working to eradicate all forms of discrimination, including anti-semitism. The inclusion of Arab American and Palestinian American communities teaches a critical understanding of the histories, lived experiences, and social struggles of these marginalized communities. Ethnic Studies as a discipline focuses on four racialized groups, as well as the intersectional histories and experiences of other identities. Just as a women's studies course focuses on the experiences of women, its focus on women is not an omission or exclusion of men or non-binary individuals.



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Using ethnic studies' epistemology, content, and pedagogy, the LESMCC maintains that ethnic studies can help educate *all* students to be socially, politically, and economically conscious of their personal connections to the local, national and (trans)national histories of racialized communities in this nation. The LESMCC believes that ethnic studies leads to a stronger sense of empathy among all students of *all* races. For this reason, LESMCC works to cultivate partnerships with non-BIPOC allies, including Jewish American allies, to cultivate compassion while eradicating systems of oppression.

The LESMCC supports school districts in the development and implementation of authentic ethnic studies curriculum, courses, and programs. Ethnic studies curriculum and pedagogy is not only culturally relevant, but it must also be community responsive. For this reason, LESMCC functions as a consultant to the district throughout the development and implementation process. Our ethnic studies experts work directly with the district's educators and curriculum development team who write the units, lessons, and develop the pedagogical practices that are relevant and responsive to the demographics of students and community within the district. For example, if a community has a large Vietnamese American population the Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies curriculum will be responsive to that population.

Educators have an ethical responsibility to teach the truth. To compromise ethnic studies curriculum by eliminating the stories and experiences of any of the four racialized communities provides a disservice to students and the goals of the discipline. LESMCC works to partner with school districts and communities to maintain the integrity of ethnic studies and to create safe learning environments where all students may engage in critical conversations, take academic risks, and learn to think critically while becoming more compassionate and empathic individuals. The LESMCC remains committed to supporting school districts in their development and implementation of authentic ethnic studies curriculum, programs, and pedagogical practices that aligns with our framework.

The LESMCC practitioners and scholars have spent decades promoting, advocating and implementing authentic ethnic studies from Kindergarten to university. The LESMCC consultants live and breathe ethnic studies, as well as affirm the deep responsibility we carry as experts in



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ethnic studies for an anti-racist society. LESMCC remains committed to this end and invites further dialogue on our work.