

The following petition, which expresses concern about a deceptive campaign to get California school districts to adopt an unapproved, widely-condemned first draft of the AB 2016 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, was signed by **2,503** California residents from **215** California school districts, as well as **512** out-of-state citizens who are deeply concerned about this matter.

## Petition from 2,500 CA Residents Regarding Deceptive Ethnic Studies Campaign

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond  
State Board President  
California State Board of Education  
1430 N Street, Room 5111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

July 20, 2020

Dear Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond,

We are California residents, taxpayers and concerned citizens, many of us with children and grandchildren in schools throughout the state. We are deeply concerned about an unscrupulous campaign to mislead district school boards into approving and making plans to implement the divisive and highly flawed first draft of the AB 2016-mandated high school ethnic studies model curriculum before it has been revised by the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), vetted by the public and adopted by the State Board of Education. Several school boards have already rubber-stamped resolutions affirming support for the unapproved draft curriculum and even committed their districts to moving forward with it, with more school boards expected to do the same in the coming months.

Shockingly, this deceptive campaign to circumvent the state's curriculum revision process is being carried out by the same individuals who formerly worked with the IQC and were responsible for developing the original draft, which received an outpouring of public criticism from more than 19,000 Californians and dozens of state legislators. Governor Newsom stated, "We are united in our resolve to make sure the advisory committee draft is only that, a draft, that will be substantially amended... It will never see the light of day."

Let us be clear: the original draft promotes highly controversial political ideologies that can't help but exacerbate ethnic divisions and foment bigotry in our schools. This is not the ethnic studies curriculum that we want for our children, our school districts or our state.

Last August, you acknowledged that the first draft model curriculum "falls short and needs to be substantially redesigned." As we eagerly await the promised revisions this fall, **we ask that you immediately urge district school board members to wait until the state's revision process is completed before affirming support for the ethnic studies curriculum or making plans to implement it in their district.**

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and your leadership in these challenging times.

**2,503 California Residents representing 215 California School Districts and 512 Non-California Citizens (Signatories not posted online)**

Cc: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond  
 California Chief Deputy of Public Instruction Stephanie Gregson  
 California State Board of Education Executive Director Karen Stapf Walters  
 California Senator Connie M. Leyva, Chair Standing Committee on Education  
 California Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, Chair, State Assembly Committee on Education  
 California Senator Allen - member of the IQC, Chair of the Jewish Legislative Caucus  
 California Assemblymember Shirley Weber - member of the IQC, Chair of the State Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate  
 California Governor Gavin Newsom  
 California Governor's Chief of Staff Ann O'Leary

**215 California School Districts Represented:**

ABC Unified	La Mesa-Spring Valley	Richmond Elementary
Acalanes Union High	Lafayette Elementary	Rincon Valley Union Elementary
Alameda Unified	Laguna Beach Unified	River Delta Joint Unified
Albany City Unified	Lake Tahoe Unified	Riverside Unified
Amador County Unified	Larkspur-Corte Madera	Roseville Joint Union High
Anaheim Union High	Las Lomitas Elementary	Ross Valley Elementary
Arcadia Unified	Las Virgenes Unified	Sacramento City Unified
Atascadero Unified	Liberty Union High	Sacramento County ROP
Banning Unified	Lincoln Unified	Saddleback Valley Unified
Bellflower Unified	Livermore Valley Joint Unified	Salinas Union High
Berkeley Unified	Lodi Unified	San Carlos Elementary
Berryessa Union Elementary	Long Beach Unified	San Diego Unified
Beverly Hills Unified	Los Alamitos Unified	San Dieguito Union High
Black Oak Mine Unified	Los Altos Elementary	San Francisco County ROP
Brentwood Union Elementary	Los Angeles Unified	San Francisco Unified
Burbank Unified	Los Gatos Union Elementary	San Jose Unified
Burlingame Elementary	Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High	San Juan Unified
Byron Union Elementary	Lucia Mar Unified	San Leandro Unified
Cabrillo Unified	Manhattan Beach Unified	San Lorenzo Unified
Cajon Valley Union	Marin County ROP	San Luis Coastal Unified
Cambrian	Mendocino Unified	San Marcos Unified
Campbell Union High	Menifee Union Elementary	San Marino Unified
Capistrano Unified	Menlo Park City Elementary	San Mateo County ROP
Cardiff Elementary	Merced Union High	San Mateo Union High
Carlsbad Unified	Mill Valley Elementary	San Mateo-Foster City
Carmel Unified	Miller Creek Elementary	San Rafael City Elementary
Castaic Union	Montebello Unified	San Rafael City High
Castro Valley Unified	Montecito Union Elementary	San Ramon Valley Unified
Chaffey Joint Union High	Monterey Peninsula Unified	Santa Barbara County ROP

Chico Unified	Moorpark Unified	Santa Barbara Unified
Claremont Unified	Moraga Elementary	Santa Clara County ROP
Clovis Unified	Moreland	Santa Clara Unified
Coachella Valley Unified	Mountain View Elementary	Santa Cruz City High
Conejo Valley Unified	Mountain View Whisman	Santa Cruz County ROP
Contra Costa County ROP	Mountain View-Los Altos Union High	Santa Maria-Bonita
Corona-Norco Unified	Mt. Diablo Unified	Santa Monica-Malibu Unified
Coronado Unified	Murrieta Valley Unified	Santa Rosa Elementary
Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified	Napa County ROP	Santa Rosa High
Culver City Unified	Napa Valley Unified	Saratoga Union Elementary
Cupertino Union	Natomas Unified	Scotts Valley Unified
Davis Joint Unified	Newhall	Sequoia Union High
Del Mar Union Elementary	Newport-Mesa Unified	Simi Valley Unified
Desert Sands Unified	Norris Elementary	Solana Beach Elementary
Dixon Unified	Novato Unified	Sonoma Valley Unified
Downey Unified	Oak Park Unified	Soquel Union Elementary
East Side Union High	Oakland Unified	South San Francisco Unified
El Dorado Union High	Ocean View	Sunnyvale
El Segundo Unified	Oceanside Unified	Tahoe-Truckee Unified
Elk Grove Unified	Orange Unified	Tamalpais Union High
Emery Unified	Orinda Union Elementary	Temecula Valley Unified
Encinitas Union Elementary	Oxnard	Torrance Unified
Escondido Union High	Oxnard Union High	Tracy Joint Unified
Eureka Union	Pacifica	Tustin Unified
Folsom-Cordova Unified	Pajaro Valley Unified	Twin Rivers Unified
Forestville Union Elementary	Palm Springs Unified	Upland Unified
Fort Bragg Unified	Palo Alto Unified	Ventura County ROP
Fremont Unified	Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified	Ventura Unified
Fremont Union High	Panama-Buena Vista Union	Victor Valley Union High
Fresno Unified	Pasadena Unified	Visalia Unified
Fullerton Joint Union High	Petaluma Joint Union High	Walnut Creek Elementary
Glendale Unified	Piedmont City Unified	Washington Unified
Grass Valley Elementary	Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified	Washington Union Elementary
Grossmont Union High	Pleasant Valley	West Contra Costa Unified
Hayward Unified	Pleasanton Unified	Western Placer Unified
Hillsborough City Elementary	Point Arena Joint Union High	Westminster
Huntington Beach Union High	Portola Valley Elementary	Westwood Unified
Inglewood Unified	Poway Unified	Whittier Union High
Irvine Unified	Ravenswood City Elementary	William S. Hart Union High
Jefferson Elementary	Redlands Unified	Woodland Joint Unified
Jefferson Union High	Redondo Beach Unified	Yolo County ROP
Kentfield Elementary	Redwood City Elementary	Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified
Kern County ROP	Reed Union Elementary	