

RESOLUTION NO. # DRAFT

September, 2019

Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement

Whereas, the Davis Joint Unified School District's (DJUSD) is committed to its graduate profile that includes critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, civic and cultural awareness, adaptability and resilience, collaboration, and communication; and

Whereas, DJUSD's mission is to support learning and equip each student with the knowledge, skills, and social emotional learning to thrive and contribute to an evolving and increasingly connected world; and

Whereas, the City of Davis is in Wintun Patwin Native homeland and that includes diverse cultural histories that need to be sufficiently and adequately represented in our schools and culturally diverse region, state, and nation; and

Whereas, ethnic studies curriculum and pedagogy is project based, demonstrably meaningful, and it is critical to increasing the academic success of all students--students of color in particular--to draw from their own experiences to engage in education that can aid with their college preparation and their career and technical education; and

Whereas, Ethnic Studies courses and programs in high schools demonstrate and prove to increase attendance, close the achievement gap, reduce drop-out rates, increase graduation rates, and increase college-going rates for academic and social resiliency for future success; and

Whereas, local students, parents, teachers, community organizations, and members of religious affiliates, elected officials, college and university professors broadly and strongly support the implementation of ethnic studies curriculum in the DJUSD; and

Whereas, California Teachers Association (CTA) passed a motion in October of 2014, stating "CTA supports the efforts that all CA school districts and locals in making Ethnic Studies a graduation requirement, so that all students have an opportunity to learn about our cultural diversity and history"; and

Whereas, DJUSD and CTA supported Pupil instruction for "Ethnic Studies" graduation currently pending in the California Legislature; and

Whereas, DJUSD strives to educate students and to assist them in realizing their full potential as responsible, productive, contributing members of society by providing an educational environment in which students are challenged, excellence is expected, and differences are valued"; and

Whereas, the Woodland Joint Unified School District is among the 30 districts that has passed a resolution making Ethnic Studies coursework a requirement for high school graduation and provide teachers Ethnic Studies professional development; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that DJUSD shall modify its existing graduation requirements to include an Ethnic Studies course requirement that students can fulfill by taking an English, Art, History, Social Studies, Language, or Math course that is re-designed with an Ethnic Studies framework and reflects the demographics in the community and state.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Graduating Class of 2021 and all subsequent classes shall be required to complete an Ethnic Studies course aligned to the current educational standards of common core, and shall be an A-G approved course.

Be It Further Resolved, that the DJUSD Governing Board of Education create an Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee to be comprised of k-12 Teachers, Students, Parents, Administrators, Community Members, and Ethnic Studies practitioners. The Committee shall include in its initial membership those who were involved creating this Resolution. Among the tasks will be to support the development of strategies for curriculum across grades and implementation of the Ethnic Studies course to ensure quality and that it aligns to agreement of the resolution through partnerships with universities, colleges, community organizations, Ethnic Studies, and/or culturally relevant programs when possible.

Be it Further Resolved, that the selection process for the Ethnic Studies Committee, which will support build curriculum and implementation protocols, shall include those who proposed this resolution when possible.

Be It Further Resolved, that DJUSD Governing Board of Education provide on-going Ethnic Studies professional development that addresses ethnicity with intersections of difference such as class, language, religion, and gender and sexual orientation for k-12 teachers and staff.

Be It Further Resolved, that DJUSD Governing Board of Education shall rigorously recruit and retain teachers who have relevant education background and experience in the study and/or teaching of Ethnic Studies and/or similar fields of study (i.e. Chicana/o Studies, Asian American Studies, African-American Studies, Native- American Studies). The Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee will be involved in approving the courses and in the hiring of Ethnic Studies teachers when possible.

Finally, Be It Resolved, that the funding for this program and each of its elements shall be incorporated into the budget and LCAP beginning the 2020-21 school year, and every year thereafter until fully implemented for serving teachers and students.

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Drafted by Creating Inclusive Davis Schools, subcommittee of Phoenix Coalition