

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 19/20-3353 – ETHNIC STUDIES REQUIREMENT

1. **WHEREAS:** Authentic appreciation of ethnic communities, cultures, and diversity is a cornerstone of inclusive and healthy democratic societies;
2. **WHEREAS:** Racism feeds on ignorance and stereotypes of ethnic groups and is perpetuated through inequitable institutional practices, policies, and systems;
3. **WHEREAS:** School districts have the responsibility to educate students about the cultures, histories and contributions of ethnic communities to U.S. society; and to guide and teach students on how to engage in responsible and constructive social change to dismantle racism and build an inclusive democratic society;
4. **WHEREAS:** Ethnic Studies, as a scholarly field, provides critical knowledge and pedagogy that fosters appreciation of ethnic diversity and promotes responsible, constructive social action—such as voter mobilization, peaceful social protest, policy advocacy, artistic production, etc.—to build an inclusive and non-racist democratic society;
5. **WHEREAS:** Authentic appreciation of ethnic diversity and critical knowledge of social action to promote anti-racist social change constitute a core competency that every student should have to contribute constructively to an inclusive and healthy society;
6. **WHEREAS:** Currently, most students in the Santa Ana School District graduate without developing or demonstrating a core competency pertaining to ethnic diversity and constructive social action;

THEREFORE:

7. Be it resolved that the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Education establish an ethnic studies high school requirement through a year-long course;
8. Be it further resolved that such an ethnic studies requirement shall apply to ninth-grade students entering high school in the 2022-2023 academic year;
9. Be it further resolved that the Superintendent form a task force consisting of Board members, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students, that will recommend the best way to implement the ethnic studies requirement: (a) as a new requirement; (b) as a substitution for an existing requirement; (c) as an overlay for courses that satisfy existing requirements; or (d) a combination of the aforementioned options;
10. Be it further resolved that the task force will also provide an action plan that will build the capacity of teachers, staff, counselors, and administrators to implement the ethnic studies requirement (e.g., professional development, books, and other materials); and finally
11. Be it finally resolved that the Ethnic Studies Task Force present an action plan to the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Education by July 29, 2020, for approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED:

The foregoing resolution was considered, passed, and adopted by this Board at its regular meeting of 9th day of June 2020.

Upon motion of Member _____ and duly seconded, the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss:
COUNTY OF ORANGE)

I, Rigo Rodriguez, President of the Board of Education of the Santa Ana Unified School District of Orange County, California, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 9th day of June 2020, and passed by a vote of _____ of said Board.

Rigo Rodriguez, Ph.D., President of the Governing Board for the
Santa Ana Unified School District, State of California

I, Alfonso Alvarez, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Santa Ana Unified School District of Orange County, California, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 9th day of June 2020, and passed by a vote of _____ of said Board.

Alfonso Alvarez, Ed.D., Clerk of the Board of Education of the
Santa Ana Unified School District, State of California