

Resolution Calling for Implementation of Ethnic Studies Curriculum

Whereas the lack of BIPOC representation and incorporation in the education system has been shown to cause psychological damage to these marginalized students of color;

Whereas the majority of literature taught in Santa Clara County high schools features white protagonists, white authors, and originates from a culture centered around whiteness, and within those works, the racist history of the n-word along with the normalization of non black-teachers permitting the reading aloud of the n-word for the sake of literary accuracy has yet to be addressed by districts across the county;

Whereas the failure on the part of school districts to standardize curriculum incorporating ethnic studies has led to a disregard for BIPOC studies and imposes an unnecessary burden on teachers to develop their own curricula (as cited by the criticism to the first ethnic studies curriculum released by the Instructional Quality Commission), failing to guarantee each student an equal education due to factors they cannot control; and, as the most recent attempt to standardize curriculum failed to become policy, and the four key nonwhite demographics highlighted by the California Department of Education have yet to become a standard part of our curriculum;

Therefore be it resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls upon the Santa Clara County Office of Education to begin implementation of ethnic studies classes in each district and that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party will support changing curriculum in California to address racist histories of currently mandated books and to ultimately mandate the reading of literature across multiple cultural viewpoints, including books currently recommended by the California District of Education that have yet to be mandated;

Be it further resolved that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party supports Assembly Bill 331, currently in the California Senate, which will implement ethnic studies as a requirement for high schools across California; in addition, the County Democratic Party calls upon Tony Thurmond, Lana Darling-Hammond, and the Instructional Quality Commission to release the standardized version of the model ethnic curriculum re-draft to be used for the implementation of the aforementioned Assembly Bill 331.

Submitted by the Santa Clara County High School Democrats of America

Adopted by Youth Delegates to the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee "Youth Takeover" meeting, August 6, 2020

Adoption affirmed by Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee, August 6, 2020