



LAUSD Ethnic Studies Guidance on Social Justice

2017

Introduction

In an Ethnic Studies course:

- “Students will become aware of the constant themes of social justice and responsibility, while recognizing these are defined differently over time” (History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, p. 420).
- “Students may consider how to improve their own community, what constructive actions can be taken, and whether they are providing a model for change [in their communities] and for those in other parts of the state, country, and world.” (History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, p. 422)
- Students will learn about social justice and social responsibility, and understand that they can become agents of change at local, state, national, and global levels.

Implications for the Classroom

- Regarding students’ rights and responsibilities, please see the LAUSD Parent Student Handbook.
http://achieve.lausd.net/cms/lib08/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/577/Handbook/s/Parent%20Student%20handbook_%202016%2017.pdf
- An ethnic studies course should provide students with depth of understanding in relation to ethnic and social issues, rather than promoting specific political activism, demonstration, protest or the like. Ethnic studies is a scientific inquiry of ethnic groups and their interrelations (Yang, 2010, pg. 14).

An Ethnic Studies course:

- Should include examples of civic engagement (e.g., voting and other peaceful social justice activities) and the impact they have had on United States history. Students who are considering volunteering, social justice activities, community engagement, etc., should consult with their school teacher/advisor and parents/guardians to evaluate that the activities are lawful, peaceful, and nonviolent.
- “Whenever possible, should [create] opportunities for participation and for reflection on the responsibilities of citizens in a free society” (History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, 2016, p. 19).

Relevant District Policies

- District policy requires students to receive written permission from a parent/guardian before participating in any off-campus social justice activity (REF 2111.1, 2015).
- Parent Student Handbook referenced above.

Resources

Link to the DOI Ethnic Studies website

This guiding document was developed by the LAUSD Multidisciplinary Ethnic Studies Advisory Team in 2017. The team is comprised of representatives from Local District Central; the Division of Special Education; the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department; Access, Equity and Acceleration Department; and Division of Instruction Content Coordinators.