State of California Instructional Quality Commission

# AUGUST 2020 AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 31, 2020

**TO:** Manuel Rustin, Chair, History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee

Members, History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee

**VIA**: Cliff Rudnick, Administrator

Instructional Resources Unit

**FROM:** Kenneth McDonald, Consultant

Curriculum Frameworks Unit

**SUBJECT:** History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee Agenda Items

## Item 2: History–Social Science Subject Matter Committee

### Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (Information/Action)

#### Summary of the Issues

California *Education Code* 51226.7, requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to develop, and the State Board of Education to adopt, modify, or revise a model curriculum in ethnic studies. Assembly Bill 114, signed by Governor Newsom in October 2019, extended the timeline of the curriculum to March 2021.

The California Department of Education (CDE) has prepared recommendations to the draft Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum that are in alignment with statute and the State Board of Education guidelines. The CDE recommendations to the model curriculum (further detailed in Attachment 2) are summarized as follows:

* Focus on the four core disciplines of ethnic studies: African American Studies, Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x Studies, Asian American Studies, and Pacific Islander Studies, and Native American and Indigenous Studies, while acknowledging California’s diversity and making connections to the experiences of all students
* Organize around four sample themes: Identity, History and Movement, Systems of Power, and Social Movements and Equity
* Restructure the draft in a user-friendly format with language that is inclusive and supportive of multiple users
* Include educator resources for (1) developing the classroom as a safe space to engage in critical conversations, (2) utilizing the History–Social Science Framework to make connections to ethnic studies, and (3) customizing the Ethnic Studies curriculum to connect to the diversity of the classroom.

#### Brief History of Key Issues

The State Board of Education, in July 2018, approved guidelines to direct development of the model curriculum. Following adoption of the guidelines, the State Board of Education appointed a Model Curriculum Advisory Committee to develop a draft Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum aligned with the guidelines and statute. The committee’s recommendation was presented to the Instructional Quality Commission in May 2019. The IQC made 12 amendments and voted to post the draft for a public comment review period through August 15, 2019.

More than 20,000 comments were submitted to CDE regarding the draft. Subsequently, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 114, allowing additional time for the development of the model curriculum.

Since that time, the CDE has embarked on a number of actions to strengthen the draft. These include the following key actions:

1. Convening an Ethnic Studies Panel of Experts to discuss K–12 Ethnic Studies implementation
2. Collaborating with the Region 15 Comprehensive Center to conduct focus groups of teachers and administrators to inform the implementation of ethnic studies in K–12 education
3. Conducting a listening session with Ventura Unified School District and Oxnard Union High School District
4. Reviewing various ethnic studies course outlines, lesson plans, and materials
5. Conducting an Ethnic Studies Webinar Series to allow the opportunity for students to learn about the four core disciplines of ethnic studies and amplify the student voice
6. Preparing revisions to the model curriculum based on learnings and public comment

#### IQC Information and Action

1. CDE Update (Information)

The CDE will provide an update on Ethnic Studies.

1. Review CDE Recommendations to the Draft Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (Information)

Staff will present the CDE recommendations. The Legislature has extended the statutory deadline by which the State Board of Education (SBE) must take final action on the model curriculum until March 31, 2021.

1. Public Comment on the Draft Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

Public comment can be submitted by calling the telephone number provided on the Commission Agenda web page or by emailing ~~ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov.~~ [Mailbox no longer active]

1. Recommend to the Full Commission Approval of the Draft Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum for the Public Review and Comment Period (Action)

The CDE recommends that the Subject Matter Committee approve the draft for a 30-day public field review.

The following attachments are provided with this item:

* Attachment 1: Staff Edits to the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum
* Attachment 2: Summary of Public Comment Received
* Attachment 3: The Model Curriculum
* Attachment 4: Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview
* Attachment 5: Chapter 2: District Implementation Guidance
* Attachment 6: Chapter 3: Instructional Guidance for K–12 Education
* Attachment 7: Chapter 4: Bibliography
* Attachment 8: Appendix A: UC-Approved Course Outlines
* Attachment 9: Appendix B: Sample Lessons and Topics
* Attachment 10: Appendix C: Lesson Resources

#### Timeline of Significant Events

**January 9, 2018:** Public Input Webinar conducted by CDE.

**May 17–18, 2018:** Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) recommends Timeline, Model Curriculum Advisory Committee (MCAC) Application, and Guidelines.

**July 11–12, 2018:** SBE approves Timeline, MCAC Application, and Guidelines.

**August 1 – October 17, 2018:** Recruitment of MCAC members.

**November 15–16, 2018:** IQC recommends MCAC members.

**January 9–10, 2019:** SBE appoints MCAC.

**February 14–15, 2019, March 21–22, 2019, April 25–26, 2019:** Three MCAC meetings held in Sacramento.

**May 16–17, 2019:** IQC reviews draft curriculum and approves for public review.

**June 15 – August 15, 2019:** Draft curriculum posted online for public feedback.

**September 19, 2019:** IQC postpones action on the model curriculum to provide for adequate time to address public comment.

**October 2019:** Assembly Bill 114 extends the project deadline one year, to March 2021.

**October 2019 – March 2020:** CDE and the Comprehensive Center conduct various information-gathering sessions and focus groups.

**September 2019 – May 2020:** CDE and SBE revise the model curriculum based on public input, including the information gathering sessions.

**July 2020:** Comprehensive Center submits report on teacher and student information sessions to the CDE.

**July 2020:** Superintendent’s Ethnic Studies Webinar Series.

**August 13, 2020:** IQC reviews and revises draft, and posts resulting draft for a 30-day period of public review and comment.

**September 1–30, 2020**: Public Review and Comment Period

**November 2020:** IQC considers revisions, and directs submission of resulting curriculum to the SBE following 45-day period

**March 17–18, 2021:** SBE action on proposed curriculum

California Department of Education, August 2020