

## Subject: Ethnic Studies Instructional Materials Committee - Update #3

Dear OPUSD Families,

OPUSD has been working to implement the ethnic studies requirement mandated by California Assembly Bill (AB) 101. We've shared updates on October 9th and November 21st as part of this effort. This is our third update of the year, continuing the conversation about our progress and approach. We remain committed to providing timely updates as we move forward.

- **October 9th Update:** Introduced the ethnic studies requirement, which becomes a high school graduation mandate starting in the 2029-30 school year. High schools must pilot a course by 2025-26. Read the full update [here](#).
- **November 21st Update:** Provided details on OPUSD's approach to incorporating the requirement into our curriculum and the Ethnic Studies Committee's recommendations. Read the full update [here](#).

On December 16, 2024, the Ethnic Studies Instructional Materials Committee (ESIMC) convened for its third meeting. This committee, composed of OPUSD staff, parents, and students, is focused on identifying instructional materials to support the integration of ethnic studies into our English courses.

At this meeting, the committee reviewed [supplemental instructional materials](#) that represent the cultural/ethnic groups: Asian American/Pacific Islander, Asian Indian, and Jewish. Committee members will continue to review and propose additional materials in the coming weeks. These materials will form part of a comprehensive portfolio for our pilot courses, which will begin in the 2025-26 school year. A subcommittee of English, History, and Ethnic Studies teachers will thoughtfully evaluate the materials to ensure they meet instructional goals and align with the values of equity, inclusivity, and cultural sensitivity.

The next ESIMC meeting will be held on **January 21, 2025**. At this meeting, the teacher subcommittee will share longer works, like novels, they would like to pilot.

We invite our community members to contribute to this process by suggesting instructional materials that reflect the six cultural/ethnic groups outlined in this update. We are particularly seeking short, uplifting, and culturally relevant works that will resonate with students. If you would like to suggest additional materials for review, please share them [here](#) by January 10, 2025, including the title, author, or a direct link to the material.

This work is an important part of our ongoing commitment to providing a curriculum that reflects the diversity and richness of our community and fosters understanding and respect. Thank you for supporting OPUSD as we thoughtfully implement this requirement.

To stay informed, you can view the [meeting minutes](#) from the November meeting and visit the Ethnic Studies section on our district website under *Department > Curriculum and Instruction*.

Sincerely,

Ellen Chevalier

Director of Curriculum and Instruction