



An Osborn EducationSM

Osborn School District #8 ♦ 1226 West Osborn Road ♦ Phoenix, AZ 85013 ♦ (602) 707-2000 ♦ www.OsbornSchools.org

Osborn Elementary Governing Board Resolution of Commitment to Ethnic Studies

WHEREAS, The Osborn School District is committed to providing excellent educational opportunities to all of our students, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, income, sexual orientation, or disability, and is guided by the core values of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations; and

WHEREAS, At least 50 languages other than English are spoken in the Osborn School District schools, with the primary language being Spanish; and

WHEREAS, The Osborn Elementary School District serves a student population that is more than 50% students of color; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies is an academic field founded to provide a more inclusive and complete understanding of the histories, cultures and experiences of people of color who have been minimized in traditional disciplines; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies is grounded in a pedagogy that enables all students, and students of color in particular, to draw from their own experiences; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies is rooted in an epistemology that centers community-engagement and intergroup understanding; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, the National Education Association (NEA) published The Academic and Social Value of Ethnic Studies, which reported ethnic studies was a positive impact in students of color. Results showed that ethnic studies benefited students in observable ways: they became more academically engaged, increased educational outcomes on academic tests, improved graduation rates, and developed a sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Whereas, research compiled in the 2011 report of the National Education Association demonstrates that well-constructed Ethnic Studies curricula are positively linked to the closing of the racial opportunity gap, reducing drop-out rates and increasing graduation rates, especially among students of color; and

WHEREAS, A growing library of academic research shows the importance of culturally meaningful and relevant curriculum; and

Clarendon School 4 th - 6 th grade 1225 W. Clarendon Phoenix, AZ 85013 (602) 707-2200	Encanto School Preschool - 3rd grade 1420 W. Osborn Phoenix, AZ 85013 (602) 707-2300	Longview School Preschool - 6th grade 1209 E. Indian School Phoenix, AZ 85014 (602) 707-2700	Montecito Community School 715 E. Montecito Phoenix, AZ 85014 (602) 707-2500	Osborn Middle School 7 th - 8 th grade 1102 W. Highland Phoenix, AZ 85013 (602) 707-2400	Solano School Preschool - 6th grade 1526 W. Missouri Phoenix, AZ 85015 (602) 707-2600
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WHEREAS, The District supports President Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color, and ensures that all young people can reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, The ethnic studies curriculum can help close the achievement gap, reduce student truancy, increase student enrollment, reduce drop-out rates, and increase graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, Whereas, research confirms that Ethnic Studies positively impacts the level of intercultural understanding and fosters life-long learning that enables students to excel in global society;

WHEREAS, today, across the nation, Black, Latino, American Indian, and Asian students continue to experience inequity of access to learning and are disproportionately overrepresented in discipline statistics and special education programming while being underrepresented in rigorous classes and gifted and Advanced Placement; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Governing Board directs the Superintendent to modify its existing curriculum to include, lessons in Kindergarten through 5th grade and courses in 6th through 8th grade in the field of ethnic studies, which can include, but is not limited to, District approved classes of Latin American Studies, African-American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies and American Intercultural Heritage;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Governing Board directs the Superintendent to ensure the District develops curriculum, professional development, and other support systems to ensure quality lessons in Kindergarten through 5th grade and courses in 6th through 8th grade in the field of ethnic studies through partnerships with local universities and ethnic studies programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED: That the Governing Board supports efforts in recruiting and retaining teachers who have relevant experience and educational background in the study and or teaching of ethnic studies.

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