

Recommendation to Incorporate Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement

Santa Barbara Unified School District
October 23, 2018

Recommendation

The High School Graduation Requirements Committee of the Santa Barbara School District recommends that the Board approve the incorporation of a 5-credit ethnic studies graduation requirement into Board Policy 6146.1 on “High School Graduation Requirements.”

Background

- National, state, regional context:
 - Broad social movement
 - Legislative landscape
- Local context: historical efforts and recent developments
 - Community partners
 - Cultural Proficiency and Equity Framework
 - High School Graduation Requirements Committee and Subcommittee on Ethnic Studies

Approaches to Implementation

SBUUnified staff are committed to adopting an approach that maximizes transparency, inclusion, and flexibility. Proposed ethnic studies graduation requirement could be fulfilled in three ways:

1. Elective survey course
2. Core-Integrated course
3. Dual Enrollment course

Timeline for Implementation

Pending Board approval, work to be accomplished during School Year 2018-2019 includes:

- Executing strategic communication and planning
- Conducting a capacity/needs analysis and securing resources to ensure high-quality implementation
- Engaging partners in course curriculum development
- Developing two courses for 2019-2020 pilot runs

Future Years

SY 2019-2020: Pilot ethnic studies courses

“Ethnic and Social Justice Studies” (2 1-semester courses)

“English 9: ESJS Emphasis” (CP and Honors versions)

SY 2020-2021 and beyond: Continue to review and revise courses in relation to released model curriculum

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Questions, Comments, Discussion