

RESOLUTION NO. 42-22

November 4, 2021

Davis Joint Unified School District Ethnic Studies Program

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District has a commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District's Board Policy 0415 states that the Governing Board believes that the diversity that exists among the district's community of students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members is integral to the district's vision, mission, and goals. Addressing the needs of the most marginalized learners requires recognition of the inherent value of diversity and acknowledgement that educational excellence requires a commitment to equity in the opportunities provided to students and the resulting outcomes.

In order to eradicate institutional bias of any kind, including implicit or unintentional biases and prejudices that affect student achievement, and to eliminate disparities in educational outcomes for students from historically underserved and underrepresented populations, the District shall proactively identify class and cultural biases as well as practices, policies, and institutional barriers that negatively influence student learning, perpetuate achievement gaps, and impede equal access to opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District ascribes to the following beliefs as affirmed in the We All Belong Resolution 37-17:

- We believe that every human being is unique and has inherent value.
- We believe we are connected and have responsibility to ourselves, one another, and the whole.
- We believe that a community has responsibility for the well-being of its members.
- We believe that education is a fundamental right.
- We believe that trust is essential to healthy relationships.
- We believe that diverse perspectives enrich our community.
- We believe that every person deserves to be treated with respect; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District affirms the Davis Principles of One Community, which include the following:

- We affirm our shared responsibility to promote and sustain a united community that acknowledges and celebrates differences.
- We affirm the inherent value of each and every member of our shared community.
- We acknowledge that the establishment of our community and its continued development are tied to the cooperation of our respective institutions and the interactions of our fellow citizens based on mutual consideration and respect.

- We appreciate the diversity of viewpoints held within our community and recognize that our actions and decisions have consequences that impact each other. In recognition of our shared values and mutual interdependence, we strive to make decisions in an open and inclusive manner that respects, nurtures and reflects understanding of the needs and interests of all community members.
- We maintain an accepting and sensitive community where everyone is free to live, learn, and work without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, age, length or place of residence, or other differences among people.

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District is committed to ensuring that school remains a safe and welcoming place for all students and families, regardless of their immigration status, race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or gender expression; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District's mission is to support learning and equip each student with the knowledge, skills, and social-emotional learning to thrive and contribute to an evolving and increasingly connected world; and

WHEREAS, Patwin Elementary School is named after the Patwin people. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land where the school and school district reside, over many centuries; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for whom the District has named a school, a leader of the civil rights movement whose commitment to freedom, peace and justice provides enduring lessons for our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, for whom the District has named a school, an African American abolitionist, suffragist, poet and author who, in 1858, refused to give up her seat or ride in the segregated section of a trolley car in Philadelphia, played an active role in the fight for the rights of women, African Americans, and many other social causes; and

WHEREAS, Fred T. Korematsu, an American of Japanese descent, for whom the District has named a school, focused on social justice, remained a tireless advocate throughout his life for civil liberties, justice and the promises contained in the Constitution, was a role model for all Americans to be upstanders rather than bystanders; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez, an American of Mexican heritage for whom the District has named a school, dedicated his life to improving the lives of others and earned respect and admiration, while leading through struggle and sacrifice, standing for dignity and justice for farmwork; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25% of the District's students speak a language other than English at home and more than 40 native languages are spoken by families whose children are enrolled in the District; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District has persistent racial/ethnic opportunity and achievement gaps in DJUSD, and the Board of Education acknowledges that a robust

Ethnic Studies program can help close these gaps for students of color and build cross-cultural understanding for all students; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District is committed to its Graduate Profile that includes critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, civic and cultural awareness, adaptability and resilience, collaboration and communication; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District is situated on the traditional indigenous Wintun Patwin homeland and now includes diverse cultural histories that need to be sufficiently and adequately represented in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, historically since 1968 and as codified in AB 2016 and AB1460, Ethnic Studies curriculum and education is focused on the study of Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latina/o Americans concerning the institutional racism they have faced, their responses or resilience, and their diverse contributions to our multicultural society; and

WHEREAS, CA Education Code Section 51204.5 prescribes the inclusion of the legacies of ethnic and cultural groups who have contributed to the history, economic, political, and social development of California and the United States, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District seeks to provide a balanced and quality education that exposes students to cultures that are crucial to them understanding our nation, past and present, and that helps our students to appreciate the rich histories and cultural contributions of their own communities; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that well designed and well taught Ethnic Studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for students including, but not limited to, an increase in: GPA across disciplines, high school graduation rates, college-going rates and a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District's Board Policy 6161.1 states that the Governing Board desires that District instructional materials, as a whole, present a broad spectrum of knowledge and viewpoints and reflect society's diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District acknowledges the academic research that associates the overwhelming dominance of Euro-American perspectives in textbooks, curricula and instruction, and marginalization of scholarship and accomplishments by people of color as contributors to disengagement from academic learning of many students of color; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies pedagogy humanizes all people by honoring the cultural wealth of historically underserved groups, by critically analyzing systems of oppression, and by promoting action in solidarity with others to transform students' lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District analyzes expenditures and allocates financial and human resources in a manner that provides all students with equitable

access to District programs, support services, and opportunities for success and promotes equity and inclusion in the District. Such resources include access to high-quality administrators, teachers, and other school personnel; funding; technology, equipment, textbooks, and other instructional materials; facilities; and community resources or partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the Davis Joint Unified School District recognizes the importance of and is committed to implementing an Ethnic Studies curriculum in our schools;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District shall modify its existing graduation requirements in the 2024-25 school year to require the completion of an Ethnic Studies course for the graduating student class of 2028-29.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District will provide ongoing Ethnic Studies professional development and support to staff to ensure appropriate, non-discriminatory, humanizing instruction and materials.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District shall rigorously develop, recruit, and retain Davis Joint Unified School District educators to have a relevant education background and/or experience in the study and/or teaching of Ethnic Studies.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District will create an Ethnic Studies position to support the evolving Ethnic Studies program.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District supports the development of curricular content that promotes student learning for the critical and interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, indigeneity, and intersectionality in the United States, and that focuses on the experiences and perspectives of people of color.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District will develop Ethnic Studies program offerings that are both integrated in existing coursework and designated as distinct Ethnic Studies course(s).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District will promote student voice and leadership opportunities as a core feature of the Ethnic Studies learning experience.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davis Joint Unified School District will consult and partner with institutions of higher education, other school districts, members of the community, and county partners to optimize local and regional expertise and opportunities in support of the Ethnic Studies program.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the funding for this program and each of its elements shall be incorporated into the District's budget and LCAP beginning in the 2021-22 school year, and every year thereafter until fully implemented.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote of the Board of Trustees of the Davis Joint Unified School District, County of Yolo, State of California on November 4, 2021.

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AYES:

NOES: ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

By:

Joe DiNunzio
President, Governing Board of the Davis
Joint Unified School District

ATTEST:

Matt Best
Secretary, Governing Board of the
Davis Joint Unified School District