



The Washington State
BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Ethnic Studies
Listening Sessions**
October 2021



Land acknowledgement

- As is our practice, we start the meeting by acknowledging that this state-wide meeting joins and works with Native American communities on the traditional lands of 29 federally recognized tribes, and numerous other Native American tribes that have not received federal recognition.
- We acknowledge that peoples native to this land have not been well served by our educational system. We ask that you join us in our commitment to recognizing the important history of Native peoples in our state and in honoring Washington's tribes as one step toward dismantling the colonialism present in our education system.
- Native-land.ca: Use this resource to discover which traditional tribal lands your home and work occupies.



A moment of silence

We would like to acknowledge the history of this nation, one fraught with contradictions. For too long, this country has elevated a story of democracy and freedom while minimizing the impact of violence and oppression on marginalized communities, communities on whose backs this nation was built.

Today, members of our Black and Asian communities, and other communities of color, continue to experience racism through policy brutality, mass incarceration, inequitable education and health services, deportation, and other forms of subjugation. We aim to disrupt the legacy of systemic racism by centering racial equity and justice in our work. This is how we stand with our communities of color.

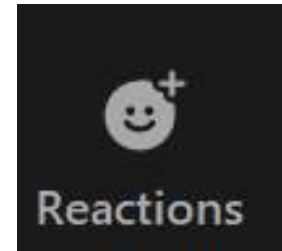
Before we begin, we want to offer a moment of silence to consider these words and how you might join us in this work.

Adopted with permission from the Professional Educator Standards Board

Invitation to engage

- Offensive language and personal attacks will **not be** tolerated
- Comments will be allowed only if they are **on topic**

Use Zoom raise your hand function (under Reactions) if you would like to speak. Hosts will then ask you to unmute.



Please be considerate of your fellow attendees and keep comment to around one minute. If you would like to give additional comment, please email us at sbe@k12.wa.us.

If you do not follow these rules, you may be muted.

- **Stay engaged**
- **Experience discomfort**
- **Speak your truth**
- **Expect and accept non-closure**
- **Step forward, step back**
- **Impact regardless of intent**



Recent Policy Work on Ethnic Studies in Washington

- “By September 1, 2021, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall identify and make available ethnic studies materials and resources for use in grades kindergarten through twelve... grades seven through twelve are encouraged to offer an ethnic studies course... grades kindergarten through six are encouraged to incorporate the materials and resources identified...” RCW 28A.300.112
- Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee: [Ethnic Studies Framework and Implementation Tools](#)
- SBE’s [Resolution of Intent to Establish an Ethnic Studies Washington State Graduation Requirement](#)

When we talk about “ethnic studies”...

We are talking about:

- Ethnic studies seek to build greater understanding and communication across ethnic differences.
- Ethnic studies aim to eliminate racism by critiquing, resisting, and transforming systems of oppression.
- Ethnic studies are responsive to students’ cultural, historical, and contemporary experiences.
- Ethnic studies implement practices and methods that are responsive to community needs and problems.
- Ethnic studies engage students in multiple perspectives by examining how identity impacts power relations in the classroom and in the community.

We are NOT talking about:

- **NOT a particular curriculum, course, lesson or unit plan**
- **NOT promoting the idea that any race is superior to any other**
- **NOT centering the blame on individuals or making anyone feel guilty about their racial identity**
- **NOT indoctrination**

Student voice





Discussion Question 1

What are your reflections on the call for “windows and mirrors” – students seeing themselves in their education?



Discussion Question 2

In your opinion, what should be the purpose of ethnic studies?



Discussion Question 3

How should Washington State incorporate ethnic studies as part of high school graduation requirements?

Contact Information

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