



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2021

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 101, which adds the completion of a one-semester course in ethnic studies as a public high school graduation requirement commencing with students graduating in the 2029–30 school year.

Ethnic studies courses enable students to learn their own stories, and those of their classmates, and a number of studies have shown that these courses boost student achievement over the long run – especially among students of color.

I appreciate that the legislation provides a number of guardrails to ensure that courses will be free from bias or bigotry and appropriate for all students. The bill also expresses the Legislature's intent that courses should not include portions of the initial draft curriculum that had been rejected by the Instructional Quality Commission due to concerns related to bias, bigotry, and discrimination.



America is shaped by our shared history, much of it painful and etched with woeful injustice. Students deserve to see themselves in their studies, and they must understand our nation's full history if we expect them to one day build a more just society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with several sharp, vertical strokes and a long horizontal tail.

Gavin Newsom