

Families United for Education Ethnic Studies Learning Outcomes

In order to look to the future, we must acknowledge our past; Families United for Education understands this. We assert that before learning can take place we must acknowledge the cultures and values of the original stewards of this land, since our learning spaces would not exist without the sacrifices of Indigenous peoples. This requires a paradigm shift towards a critical lens, not just multiculturalism. Because anti-racist education should be our goal, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond's *Undoing Racism* training should inform and guide the ethnic studies curriculum. Through our participation in *Undoing Racism* trainings and in our journey as FUE, we know that conflict and disagreement can be uncomfortable, but it can also lead to growth and learning experiences where diversity is utilized and seen as strength one hundred percent of the time.

Sonia Nieto – a renowned national advocate for multicultural education – has stated that in order to teach our students effectively we need to know them and their communities first. It is important that the funds of knowledge that our students bring to the classroom – which make them who they are – are honored so that the curriculum can reflect the families and students served. It is not sufficient for just *some* students and teachers to be engaged in these conversations and with this curriculum; we believe that *all* should be engaged. This is because education must look and feel equitable, welcoming and safe, and be respectful of various kinds of differences.

An integrated K-12 approach to ethnic studies will teach our students about the root causes of inequities, while building upon the knowledge and skills in their communities to create a more just society. This is important because our students have a right to view their positions in U.S. society through a critical lens that provides an analysis of structural inequities while lifting up the histories, identities and struggles of their ancestors and family members. Our hope is that this type of education will create clear pathways to careers, identities and life-long successes that personally resonate with each student.

Our students will be provided with definitions of race and racism (including the historical context within which race was created) and an understanding of the process of racialization. Our students will understand the four levels of racism: intra-personal, interpersonal, institutional and structural, and how race intersects with class, gender, sexuality, citizenship, ability and religion, to create inequality. Our students will understand why race is often conflated with class, and the psychosocial elements of racism that drive and create prejudice. Our students will understand the true relationship between race and class, how and why racial inequities exist in every sector of our society, and what can be done about it.

Students will gain an understanding of the dynamics of inequality, oppression and resistance, and how these dynamics shape individual and community power and experiences. Thus, ethnic studies will become a call to action for all of us, moving us forward together with the ultimate goal of abolishing racism.