



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION TO MAKE ETHNIC AND GENDER STUDIES A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, LULAC is our Nation's oldest, largest, and most respected Hispano/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State Departments of Education, school boards, superintendents, administrators, teachers, and school employees have a responsibility to provide **all** students with a quality education, a safe, and inclusive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the general mission of schools is to prepare students as global, lifelong learners to succeed academically, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and culturally – in addition to providing the opportunities for students to be more culturally proficient; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Education Statistics for 2014 has showed the total student enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools (K-12) in the United States and the District of Columbia to be approximately 49.5% Caucasian/ White, 25% Hispanic, 16% African American/ Black, 5% Asian/ Pacific Islander, 3% identifying as two or more races/ethnicities or 1.6 million, and lastly 1% American Indian/ Alaskan Native; and

WHEREAS, the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) in 2014-15 school year was 83%. During the same period the drop- out rate nationally was 5.9% for White/ Caucasian, Hispanic dropout rate at 9.2 % and African American dropout rate at 6.5%; and

WHEREAS, White/ Caucasian enrollment is projected decrease between 2014 and fall of 2026 and African American, Hispanic, Asian Pacific Islander, and American Indian/ Alaskan Native student enrollment is projected to increase; and

WHEREAS, documented in textbooks and classroom teachings are written and taught in a European/ White/ Caucasian perspective and that "White Privilege" permeates education, these systems put in place for centuries continue in the methods teachers are trained, their interaction with students, the mindset of compliance and obedience, and are all centered in whiteness. As students of color try to navigate this system, their voices are ignored due to different upbringing rather being seen as a strength as diversity in thought; and

WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence that points that well designed and well taught Ethnic and Gender studies curricula have positive academic and social outcomes for all students; and

WHEREAS, ethnic and racial disparities must be recognized and confronted by in order for real alliances of social justice to exist; and

WHEREAS, students and teachers demographics are inversed in that the majority of teachers and administrators are White/ Caucasian, and the majority of students are students of color; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the National Education Association (NEA) published the “Academic and Social Value of Ethnic and Gender Studies,” which reported Ethnic and Gender studies have made a positive impact on students of color and LGBTQIA students. Results have shown that Ethnic and Gender Studies benefited students in educational outcomes, test scores, graduation rates, academic engagement, increase self- efficacy, and personal empowerment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the League of United Latin American Citizens expresses support to adopt a national resolution for all schools to modify its existing graduation requirements to include, but not limited to courses in Ethnic and Gender Studies by the 2020- 2021 academic school year, effective for the graduating class of 2023 and beyond.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Ethnic and Gender Studies requirements may be minimally fulfilled by a ten (10) credit, two (2) semester or yearlong A-G College approved Ethnic and Gender Studies courses including, but not limited to, African American Studies, Women Studies, Chicano/ Latino studies. LGBTQA+ Studies, History of Mexican American courses and/ or course relative to people of color, women, and LGBTQA+ .

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the League of United Latin American Citizens urges to inform and work with together with all educational groups and entities to draft and submit a model curriculum to the State Board of Education (SBE) by June 2020 and to support and assist on the adoption of a model curriculum that provide to teachers and education support professionals the help needed to create safe and supportive educational experiences for all students that includes the spread of information of social justice, equity, and racial justice in all spaces, and to seek interested teaches who consciously confront and wrestle with narratives and practices that clothe all minority groups of layers of inferiority.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2018 LULAC National Convention on July 21, 2018.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President