



**Lodi Unified School District
Curriculum and Instruction
James Areida Education Support Services
1305 E. Vine Street, Lodi, CA 95240**

**Lisa Kotowski, Assistant Superintendent
(209) 331-7028**

July 29, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter provides information regarding alternative assignments specified for History/Social Science lessons. An ad-hock committee is being formed in response to concerns from the community. The committee will discuss many issues including instructional materials, communication and alternative assignments. The information provided about alternative assignments in this notice may change as a result of the committee's work. Parents will be informed if any changes occur.

Parents and students cannot opt out of the History/ Social Science curriculum. If there are topics parents find questionable, they may request an alternative assignment. This letter provides information on what parents must do to request an alternative assignment.

What are the changes to History/Social Science? There have been changes to the History/Social Science curriculum as a result of the FAIR Act and Senate Bill 48. The law made several additions to the *Education Code* sections dealing with the course of study, classroom instruction, and instructional materials for History/ Social Science in grades Kindergarten through Twelfth grade. The goal is to provide Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) representation of people from different cultures, people with disabilities, and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in U.S. history and social studies curriculum.

Senate Bill 48: Senate Bill 48 added language to *Education Code* Section 51204.5, which prescribes the inclusion of the contributions of various groups in the history of California and the United States. They expanded language to :“...a study of the role and contributions of both men and women, Native Americans, African Americans, Mexican **Americans**, Asian **Americans**, Pacific Islanders, **European Americans**, **lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans**, **persons with disabilities**, and members of other ethnic **and cultural** groups, to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society.”

Senate Bill 48 and the FAIR Act, can be found at the California Department of Education (CDE) website: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/senatebill48faq.asp>.

Lodi Unified teachers will comply with Education Code and State law in providing instruction through a State approved curriculum. If you do not want your child to participate in **specific** History/Social Science lessons, you are asked to provide a signed letter to your child's classroom teacher requesting an alternative assignment.

Alternate Assignment: When requesting an alternative assignment, please provide to your child's teacher a signed letter with your child's name and what lesson you would like your child to be removed from. The teacher will honor your request and will provide an alternative assignment. The district has posted information provided by each publisher regarding how and when the additions have been included in their curriculum. You may determine when you would like your child to be provided an alternative assignment, by reviewing the grade level appropriate documents posted on the district website. A sample letter is provided to assist you in providing the appropriate information.

If you have further questions, please contact the school principal and/or your classroom teacher.

Dear Teacher _____

I understand that the school is required to provide History/Social Science instruction using materials that meet Senate Bill 48 and the FAIR Act. I am writing to inform you as a parent, I am concerned about certain topics being presented.

No one in the school or district has suggested that my child should be excluded from participating; this is my personal choice as a parent. My decision to request an alternative assignment in no way reflects on the hard work and talent of the teachers, administrators or staff at the school.

I understand that my child will not be punished in any way for not participating in this specific lesson.

Thank you in advance for respecting my request.

Student Name (Printed) _____ Grade _____

Teacher (Printed) _____ Room # _____

I am requesting an alternative assignment for lesson (Be specific) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) _____