

## Northshore School District Ethnic Studies P-12 Framework Overview

*The **purpose** of Ethnic Studies is to transform student lives by promoting healing from historical trauma, humanizing and empowering all students, and promoting civic and community engagement through action in solidarity with others. Ethnic Studies pedagogy promotes collaboration in learning, higher level thinking and critical analysis of racism and other forms of oppression. Ethnic Studies further provides students with the opportunity to understand themselves and their intersectionality in relation to society.*

### Themes

#### Reflection and Action

Definition of Theme: Student action, as defined by Ethnic Studies, fosters a sense of advocacy and empowerment that cultivates the internal motivation to be a local, community, and global changemaker. Through reflection, students increase their collective understanding of the power they have to positively impact their experiences and the experiences of people around them. By equipping students with the tools to think critically and take action creatively, they are able to leverage their own voice and agency in the transformative work they do.

Identity	Power and Oppression (Fairness)	History of Resistance and Liberation	Healing and Futurity
<p><u>Definition of Theme:</u> Identity, as defined by Ethnic Studies, is the ways in which we view ourselves as a member of multiple communities with distinct cultures and mores, including our intersectionalities, and how our identities affect the ways we are perceived by ourselves and others.</p>	<p><u>Definition of Theme:</u> Power, as defined by Ethnic Studies, is the way in which individuals and groups intentionally and unintentionally manipulate and exploit resources in order to amass wealth and control, thus creating and perpetuating social, economic, and political stratification. These hierarchical power structures maintain oppressive systems, institutions, ideologies, and interactions.</p>	<p><u>Definition of Theme:</u> The history of resistance and liberation, as defined by Ethnic Studies, is the history of resisting oppression as carried out by oppressed groups themselves. This theme directly challenges the master narrative.</p>	<p><u>Definition of Theme:</u> Healing, as defined by Ethnic Studies, is to honor the ways of knowing and being of minoritized communities and to utilize that knowledge to shape humanizing pathways, approaches, and realities. Healing is also recognizing that minoritized communities are present in our futures and actionizing hope that these collective futures will be rooted in justice.</p>

**\*\*Note:** These themes rely on the training and self-awareness of all staff; this is not a set of materials, but a mindset, embedded in all teaching and learning.

## Enduring Understandings Across the Grades

*Enduring Understandings* are statements summarizing important ideas that are central to a topic and have lasting value beyond the classroom. Each grade band includes several enduring understandings that are pertinent to the learning designed for students in those grade levels. The following *Enduring Understandings* have been identified as important learning across all grade levels. These may overlap within the grade bands, which is appropriate for iterative and evolving nature of the teaching and learning that takes place with Ethnic Studies.

<p><b>Identity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All identities have value and deserve respect.</li> <li>● People have intersecting identities that impact lived experiences and the ways people express themselves in different spaces.</li> <li>● Different elements create multiple identities/intersectionalities, and connect people to different complex communities.</li> <li>● There are differences among cultures; those differences play out politically, economically, and socially, depending on location and time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Power and Oppression (Fairness)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All people have rights, needs, and wants.</li> <li>● Access to opportunity and the rules governing behavior should not be based on identity.</li> <li>● People’s different lived experiences can be attributed to systems and perceptions.</li> <li>● Power dynamics are at play in daily interactions based on identity. (how and why power dynamics create systems of oppression and privilege and what effect this has on current events)</li> </ul>
<p><b>History of Resistance and Liberation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oppressed groups engaged/engage in resistance &amp; liberation.</li> <li>● Accomplices and co-conspirators work together to resist and dismantle systems of oppression.</li> <li>● Intersectional identities can affect people's experiences, actions and impact how they resist and work towards liberation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healing and Futurity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Belonging (whether to a culture, to a group, to a history) is a rich resource for healing.</li> <li>● It is important to value the experiences, identities and contributions of all.</li> <li>● Restorative justice is a necessary component of healing.</li> <li>● Connectedness, self-love, healing, and trauma recovery benefits all.</li> <li>● The amplification and centering of counter narratives and historically minoritized groups promotes healing.</li> </ul>