

INTERSECTIONAL ETHNIC STUDIES

Hacienda La Puente USD

Intersectional Ethnic Studies Defined:

Intersectional Ethnic Studies is a dynamic and collectively constructed curriculum and pedagogy that centers the histories, cultures and struggles of marginalized communities in the US. In addition, it seeks to analyze systems of oppression and the relationships of identity and power impacting Black/African Americans, Chicax, Latinx people, Asian Americans, Pacific Islander, Arab American, Indigenous people and other ethnic/racial groups; people of different gender identities including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Transgender; as well as people with disabilities, undocumented people, and those experiencing other forms of marginalization. As an intersectional perspective, this approach takes into account the ways our multiple identities intersect with relationships of power in society. Lastly, Intersectional Ethnic Studies is rooted in both individual and collective empowerment, centering the importance of education as a collective exercise that supports our movement towards educational and social justice.



AB 101

In 2021, the CA Legislature passed, into law Assembly Bill 101 – to include an ethnic studies course in high school diploma requirements, starting with high school students graduating in the 2029-30 school year.



ESMC

In 2018, the State Board of Education approved the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC) Guidelines to offer support for the inclusion of ethnic studies courses, concepts, resources, and professional development.



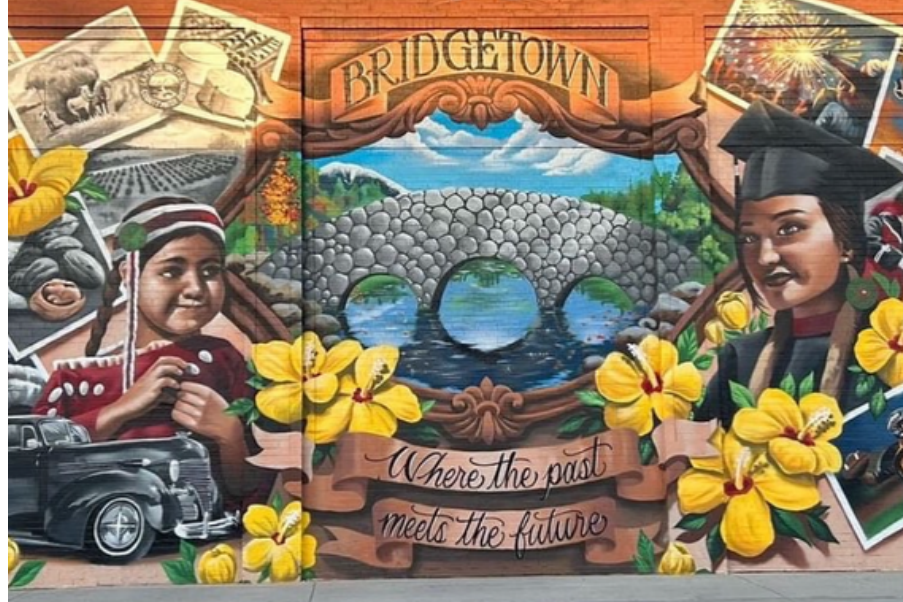
Place Based & Local:

Beginning with the acknowledgement of the original Gabrieleño-Tongva peoples, the local histories, experiences, and communities representative of HLPUSD and the broader San Gabriel Valley will be highlighted in all Ethnic Studies Courses.



Skills and Standards Aligned:

Ethnic Studies Coursework and curriculum are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and skill sets for each academic discipline.



"Bridgetown" Mural created by Franky Fingers with the help of students of La Puente HS

OUR STORY

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District has been working diligently over the past three school years to develop a TK-12 Intersectional Ethnic Studies Program that will meet the needs of our diverse student population in the district.

OUR FIRST ETHNIC STUDIES COURSE

Intersectional Ethnic Studies is currently being offered as a UC A-G approved college preparatory elective in the Social Studies Department at all five of our high schools.

BOARD RESOLUTION

In 2022 the HLPUSD Board of Education passed Resolution No. 2021/22-22 which called for the creation of a robust interdisciplinary and intersectional vertically-aligned Ethnic Studies program that included the development of Ethnic Studies curriculum, classes, and pathways across TK-12 for all schools to be completed by March of 2027.

NEW COURSES

Beginning in the 2024-25 academic school year HLPUSD will be offering new ethnic studies courses in additional academic disciplines.

- English Language Arts Ethnic Studies
- Spanish Literature Ethnic Studies

These will be year long courses that meet the requirements of both Ethnic Studies and the academic discipline.

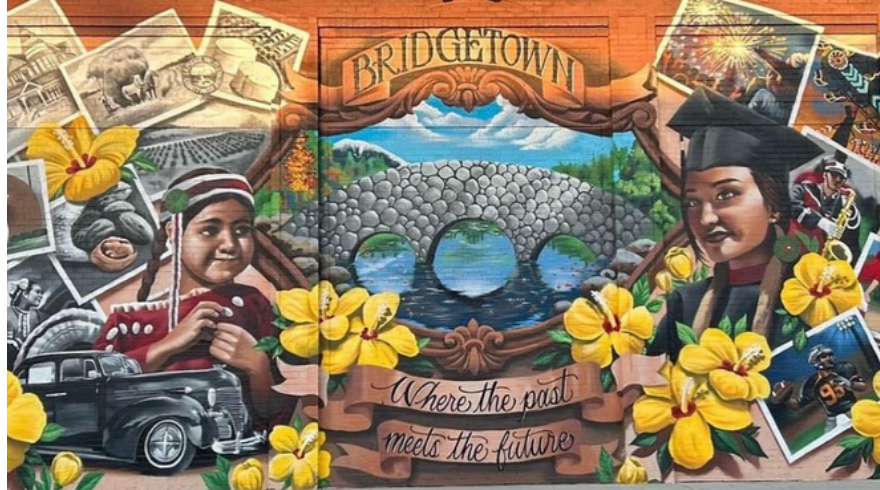
HLPUSD ETHNIC STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Beginning with the graduating class of 2029-30 who enter high schools in the 2025-2026 school year, high school students in HLPUSD will be required to complete one year of an ethnic studies course for graduation. Every high school will offer a series of Ethnic Studies course offerings which will all be UC A-G approved courses.

For more information, please visit our HLPUSD Website or email the Intersectional Ethnic Studies Coordinator Ron Espiritu at respiritu@hlpusd.k12.ca.us



HLPUSD ES Website



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WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS:

"An established body of research affirms what educators have long known intuitively: interdisciplinary ethnic studies, or the study of the social, political, economic and historical perspectives of our nation's diverse racial and ethnic groups, help foster cross-cultural understanding among both students of color and white students and aids students in valuing their own cultural identity while appreciating the differences around them. These studies also confirm that students who participate in ethnic studies are more academically engaged, develop a stronger sense of self-efficacy and personal empowerment, perform better academically and graduate at higher rates." -Dr. Christine Sleeter and Dr. Miguel Zavala. From their 2021 book: Transformative Ethnic Studies in Schools.

Two Pronged Approach to Intersectional Ethnic Studies

Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Ethnic Studies Program at HLPUSD

The Development of High School Ethnic Studies classes in multiple academic disciplines

Meets Grad Requirement (AB 101).

Teaches ES Content and Concepts including Civic Engagement

TK-12 Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies Integration

ES Content weaved into TK-12 curriculum

Diversifies curriculum and leads to higher academic engagement

WHAT HLPUSD STUDENTS SAY

" As a senior in high school, it makes me proud to say that Ethnic Studies is the best class I have ever taken throughout my high school career. From learning more about myself to learning about hidden stories, it has been a beautiful experience! I have enjoyed being able to learn more about how gender, sexuality, race, and other topics that are not usually talked about often. Ethnic Studies creates a safe space for individuals to share their stories and feel a sense of belonging in their community.

ETHNIC STUDIES FAQs:

HOW ARE TEACHERS BEING PREPARED TO TEACH ETHNIC STUDIES?

High School teachers that are volunteering to develop and teach Ethnic Studies courses in their unique academic discipline. are receiving training, support for curriculum creation, and ongoing coaching. TK-12 teachers will be trained in a series of Professional Development trainings throughout the school year.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY ETHNIC STUDIES CONTENT IS INTEGRATED IN OTHER COURSES?

In addition to the elective courses offered at the high school level, Ethnic studies content and concepts will be integrated in all academic disciplines from TK-12th Grade. This integration will be in the form of lessons, units of study, project based learning, and other opportunities.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF ETHNIC STUDIES?

Ethnic Studies as an academic discipline grew out of the Civil Rights Movement in the US. Starting in 1968 hundreds of Colleges and Universities established Ethnic Studies Programs to meet the needs of their increasingly diverse student body. The purpose of Ethnic Studies was to train students how to research challenges in their communities and find solutions through rigorous research and study. The fight for TK-12 Ethnic Studies also started in 1968 and continues to today.



CA GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

01 Cultivate empathy, community actualization, cultural perpetuity, self-worth, self-determination, and the holistic well-being of all students.

02 Celebrate and honor Native People/s of the land and communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color by providing a space to share their stories of success, community collaboration, and solidarity historically and today.

03 Center and place high value on the precolonial ancestral knowledge, narratives, and communal experiences of Native People/s and people of color.

04 Critique empire building in history and its relationship to white supremacy, racism, and other forms of power and oppression.

05 Challenge racist, bigoted, discriminatory, and imperialist/colonial beliefs and practices on multiple levels.

06 Connect ourselves to past and contemporary social movements that struggle for social justice and an equitable and democratic society, and conceptualize, imagine, and build new possibilities for our communities.