


ethnic studies

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## Key Topics

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### MPS board approves changes to graduation requirements



The Minneapolis Board of Education on Jan. 13 voted to approve changes to graduation requirements that offer students more flexibility to choose courses that interest them and match their post-secondary plans.

Over the past year Minneapolis Public Schools studied many different options for modifying our graduation requirements, with the goal of offering all MPS students a well-rounded and high-quality education. Changes to the graduation requirements will support this goal in the following ways:

- **All students will be more engaged** in coursework that allows them to pursue their passions and interests.
- **Students who are struggling will be able to recover important credits** in core classes like math and reading.
- **Students who are doing well will be able to excel further** by taking additional foreign languages, International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced Placement (AP) courses and other electives.
- **Students who are career-focused** will have more access to career and college programs through Career and Technical Education (CTE), Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) or internships.

## Learn more

View current graduation requirements

View detailed changes

Summary of changes:

- Reduce the **physical education** requirement from two semesters to one semester
- Reduce the **health** requirement from two semesters to one semester
- Reduce the **social studies** requirement from eight semesters to seven semesters
- Increase **elective** requirements from nine semesters to 12 semesters.
- Ensure a semester-long elective **ethnic studies** course is offered at all MPS high schools
- No change to **world language** requirement

# Fast Forward to 2020
# Ethnic Studies Courses in MPS

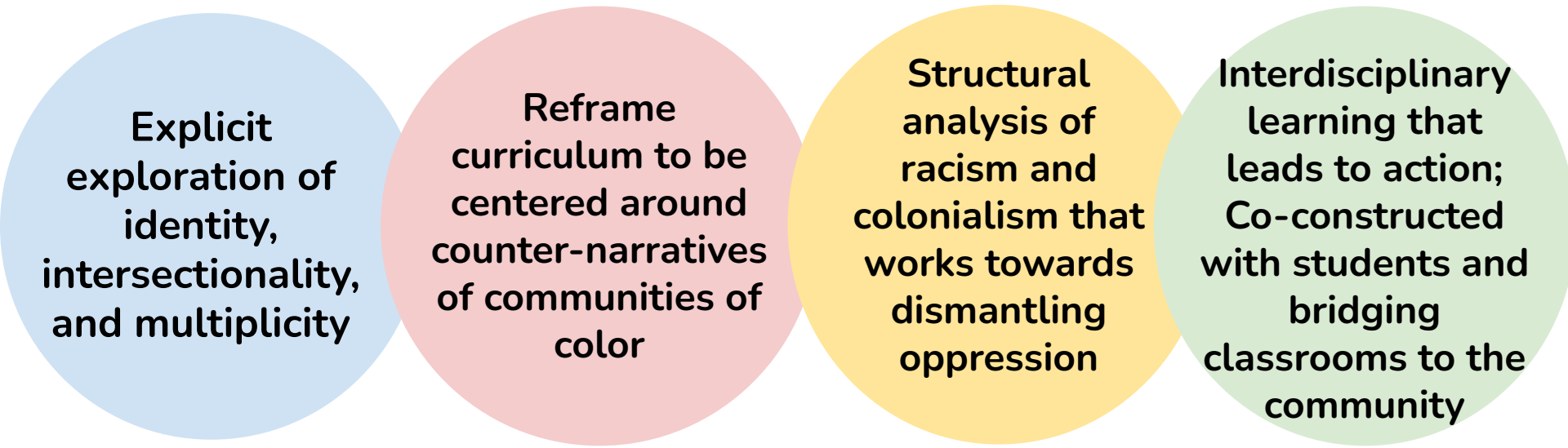
- African American Studies (HS)
- Asian American Studies (HS)
- Chicanx/Latinx Studies (HS)
- First Nations Studies (HS)
- Hmong Studies (HS)
- Race & Identity Studies (HS)
- Somali Studies (HS)
- Intro to Ethnic Studies (MS)

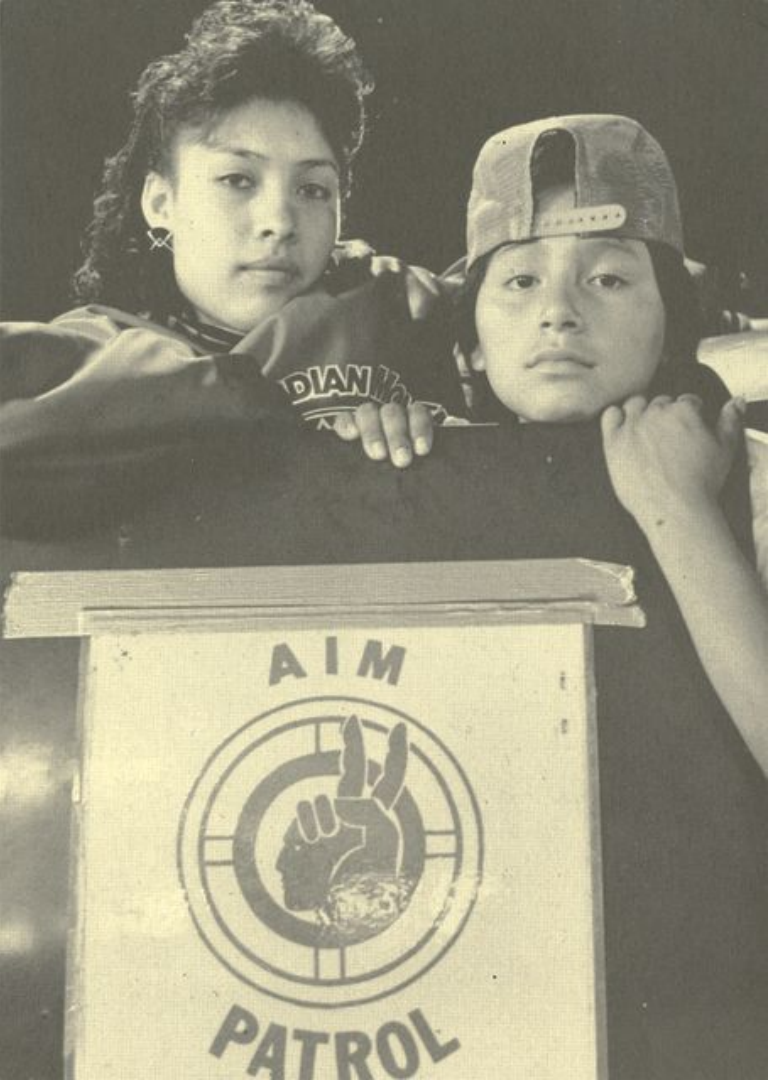
# 2020-21 Status at Each School

| All students take an Ethnic Studies course | Majority of students take an Ethnic Studies course | Ethnic Studies courses offered, but low enrollment | Ethnic Studies not officially offered |
|---|---|---|---|
| FAIR* | Edison* | Roosevelt | Longfellow |
| Henry* | North* | South | Wellstone |
| | Heritage | Southwest* | MACC |
| | | Washburn* | Online |
| | | | Harrison** |
| | | | Stadium View** |

*Students at these schools take 8 semesters of Social Studies courses as the norm
**Due to the transitional nature of their programs, students here take general Social Studies courses, not discipline-specific courses

# MPS Ethnic Studies Courses Framework






# Policy Proposal

- An Ethnic Studies course is required for graduation
- Course earns .5 credits (1 semester)
- 21.5 credits required for graduation remains the same
- Schools choose which Ethnic Studies courses to offer

# Timeline

**Spring 2021** All high schools schedule students into Ethnic Studies courses for SY21-22 based on where the course best fits their school's 4-year sequence.

**Fall 2021** The new requirement would begin with the class of 2025, who are 9th graders in Fall 2021.





# Implications

- Some schools will have no changes, or very limited changes because they are already doing this
- Other high schools will need to decide where to put it in student schedules
- May cause schools to change their Social Studies course sequence