



# African American US History Update

Board Meeting  
February 5, 2026  
Agenda Item No. 10.2

**Presented by:**

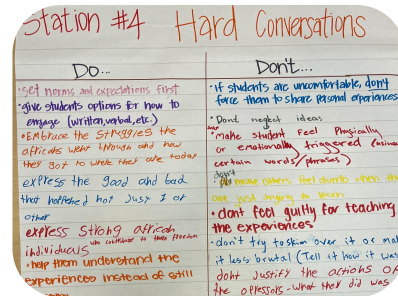
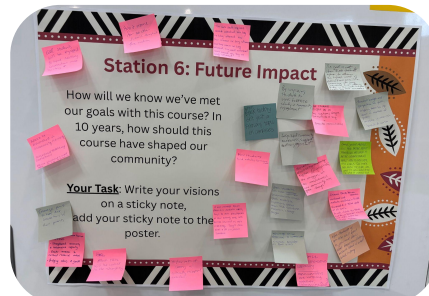
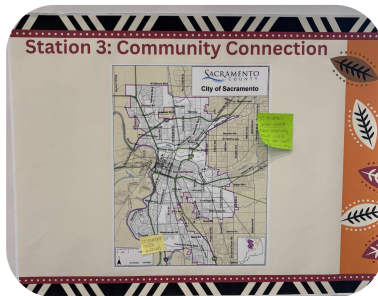
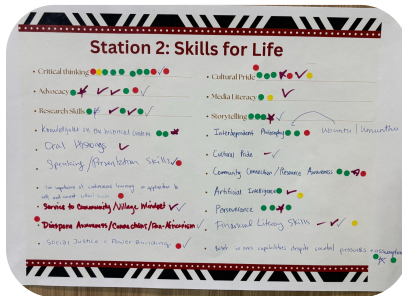
Ashley Alexander, Director of Professional Learning, Literacy, ELA, and  
Humanities

Julie Law-Marin, History-Social Science Coordinator  
Erinn Leone, History-Social Sciences Content Specialist

# Student Advocacy from Rosemont High School BSU

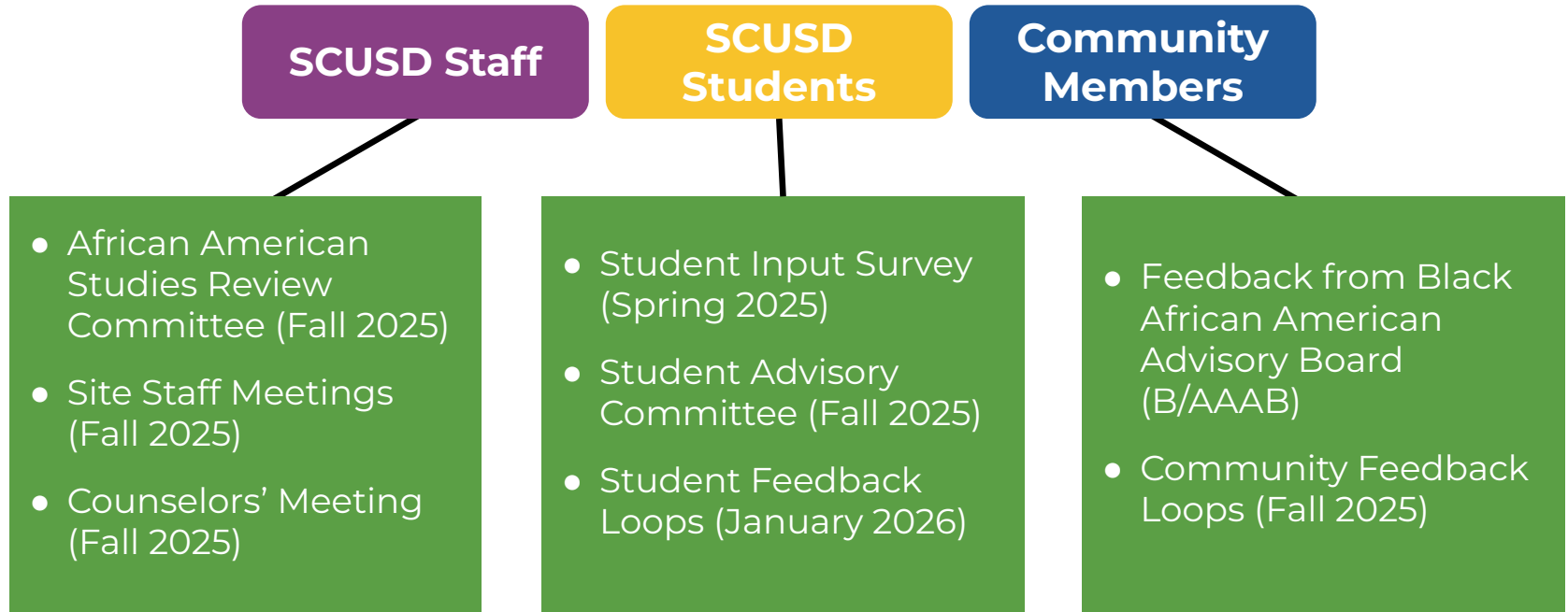


# Community and Student Feedback Loops



# District and Community Feedback

To ensure that African American Studies best fits the needs of SCUSD's diverse student populations and communities, feedback has been requested in the following ways:



# African American US History Course Description

African American Studies is a dynamic and powerful college-preparatory course that explores the history, culture, and contributions of people of African descent, from West African civilizations to the present day. In this course, students will learn how Black communities have shaped U.S. society, advanced movements for justice, and built strong and resilient cultures in the face of oppression.

Students will explore major historical eras and movements, including:

- West African kingdoms and cultural foundations
- The transatlantic slave trade and resistance to enslavement
- The Constitutional era and the fight for freedom
- Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow
- The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance
- The Civil Rights and Black Power Movements
- Hip-Hop, Black arts, and cultural expression
- Contemporary issues of identity, social justice, activism, and liberation

Learning will come to life through music, literature, film, art, primary sources, oral history, and community knowledge. Students will examine history through Black voices, perspectives, and leadership, studying both the challenges and the powerful traditions of resistance, self-determination, and collective empowerment.

Using an Ethnic Studies lens, students will explore how race, power, gender, class, and identity shape people's experiences in the United States. Students will strengthen their critical thinking, writing, research, and discussion skills while engaging with real-world issues, current events, and civic action.

This course gives students a deeper and more complete understanding of U.S. history, making clear that African American history is American history. Students will gain tools to analyze the past, understand the present, and become leaders who contribute to positive change in their communities.



## NEW COURSE OPTION

# African American Studies

### WHAT IS THE COURSE ABOUT?

This course dives into Black history, from powerful leaders & cultural movements to everyday people who shaped the world.

You'll explore how African American experiences have influenced all aspects of American society (music, art, politics, economics, social change, and more) and why it all still matters today.

### WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

- ✿ Discover powerful moments in history from the Harlem Renaissance to Black Lives Matter
- ✿ Hear voices & perspectives not always included in traditional classes
- ✿ Connect Black history to your life, your community, and the world around you to better understand how we got here and where we're going

**Open to all incoming 11<sup>th</sup> Graders**  
**Space is Limited**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

- ✿ Stop by your counselor's office.
- ✿ Earn 11<sup>th</sup> grade History-Social Science credits or senior elective credits.



# Timeline and Progress

## Winter 2025

African American  
Studies Review  
Committee and  
research African  
American courses

## Spring 2025

Interest survey to  
Grades 7-12 students

## Summer 2025

Stakeholder feedback  
and research how  
course schedule  
integration

## Fall 2025

Community Meeting  
Sessions (Oak Ridge,  
Hiram Johnson, and  
Burbank)

Site Staff  
Presentations

## Fall 2025

Instructional materials  
and Courses of Study  
review

Course development  
with African American  
Studies Review  
Committee

## Fall 2025

Met with site leaders  
and counselors to add  
class on Course  
Requests

Course promotion to  
students

## Winter 2026

Student Feedback  
Loop for course  
feedback (Rosemont,  
CKM)

## Winter 2026

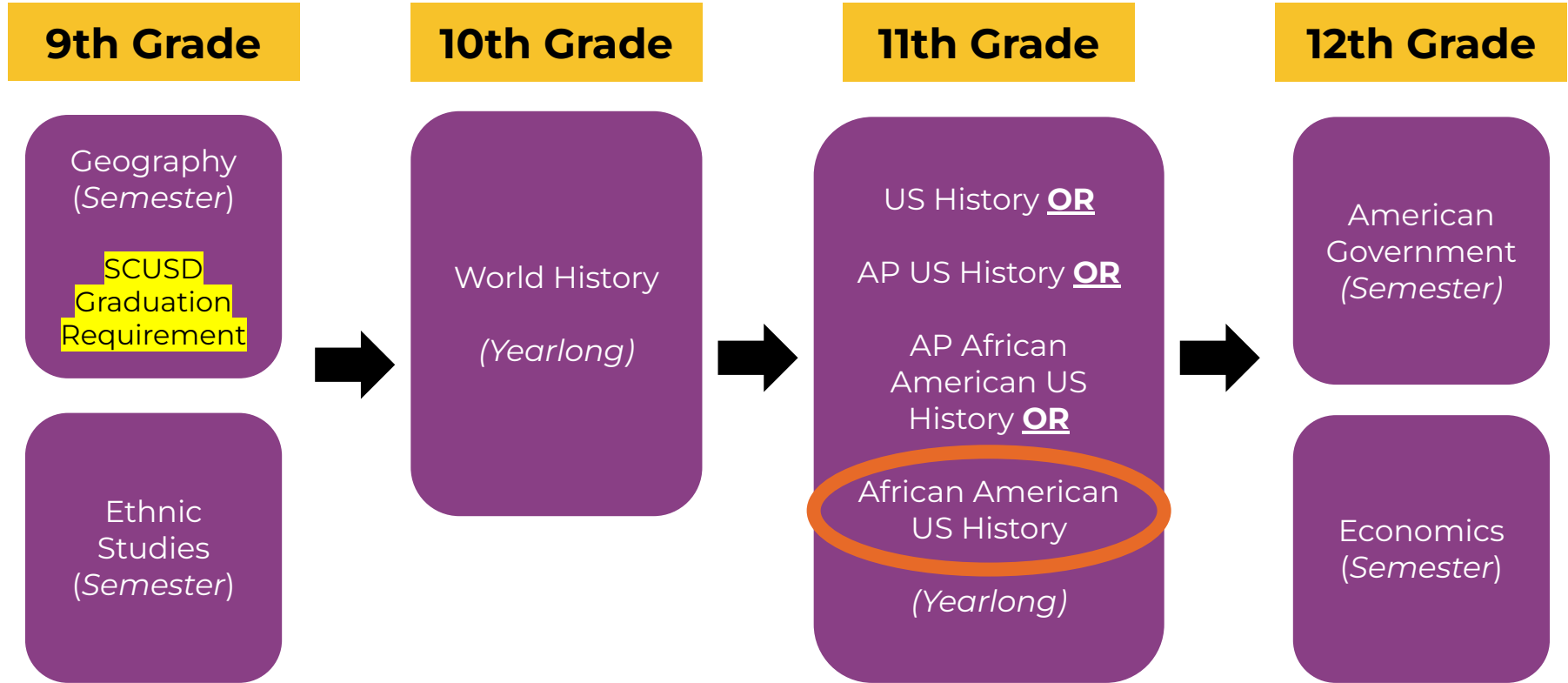
Finish Course of Study  
Draft

Review instructional  
materials to pilot

# Course Request Data

| 2025-26                     | 2026-27                                                        |                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AP African American Studies | African American US History                                    | AP African American US History |
| 1 Section (CKM)             | 10 Sections (American Legion, CKM, JFK, Rosemont, West Campus) | 4 Sections (CKM, West Campus)  |

# 2026-27 Grades 9-12 History - Social Science Course Sequence



*Note: Courses may vary based on specialty programs and pathways available at school sites*

# Financial Considerations

## Professional Learning for Instructors



(Spring,  
Summer, Fall  
2026)

Restricted Funds for Professional Learning and Standards Based Instruction

## Instructional Materials Pilot



(Fall 2026)

## Instructional Materials Adoption



(Spring 2027)

Restricted Funds for Instructional Materials

# Next Steps

**Present  
Course of  
Study for  
Board  
Approval**



(March 2026)



**Develop  
Professional  
Learning Plan  
for Instructors**



(Spring and  
Summer 2026)



**Form an  
Instructional  
Materials  
Adoption  
Committee**



(Spring 2026)

# **Q & A about African American US History**