



RESOLUTION ON ETHNIC STUDIES

PROVIDING THAT THE LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTS A STATEWIDE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULA IN VOLUNTEER SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2017, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education adopted a resolution supporting ethnic studies in the Las Cruces Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education the Superintendent created and convened an Ethnic, Gender, and Women's Studies Task Force during the 2017-2018 academic year and whose members were representative of the community; and

WHEREAS, Stanford University researchers found positive effects on attendance rates, graduation rates, and overall increases in grade-point for students enrolled in an ethnic studies curriculum for struggling, at-risk students in San Francisco high schools from 2010 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requested that the Ethnic, Gender, and Women's Studies curriculum be designed to engage students and add relevancy for underserved and at-risk students; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 219 was introduced during the First Session of the 2017 Legislative Session that defined ethnic studies and, had it been passed by both Houses, would have required ethnic studies to be taught as an elective in grades nine through twelve; and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Memorial 20, introduced during the Second Session of the 2018 Legislature passed the Senate but died in the House of Representatives, requested the establishment of a task force of community, academic, and professional partners to identify the next steps required to develop ethnic studies curricula in volunteer school districts, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association supports *legislation that would define "ethnic studies" and allow volunteer districts to develop an ethnic studies curriculum and offer the course as an elective and allow the Ethnic Studies class to be used as one of the required social studies credits.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Chair of the House Education Committee in the New Mexico Legislature, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

Adopted in open session on September 3, 2019



Ed Frank, President
Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education