

## Establishing Los Rios Community College District Ethnic Studies Departments March 16, 2021 Revised April 6, 2021; Supported April 20, 2021 by the District Academic Senate

Whereas, the Los Rios Community College District is committed to student success, equity, and diversity; and equitable education requires making significant connections with students and providing diverse learning experiences to meet diverse needs; and

Whereas, California Assembly Bill 1460, commencing with students graduating in the 2024–25 academic year, instructs “the California State University to require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one 3-unit course in Ethnic Studies...”; and

Whereas, the proposed California Assembly Bill 1040, commencing with the 2022–23 academic year, requires “each community college district to offer courses in Ethnic Studies at each of its campuses. The bill would require that the units earned by students for successful completion of these courses would be eligible for transfer and, if applicable, would meet Ethnic Studies graduation requirements at the California State University”; and

Whereas, the proposed California Assembly Bill 1040, commencing with the 2024–25 academic year, requires “each community college district to require the completion of at least one course in Ethnic Studies of at least 3 units as a requirement for a student to obtain an associate degree for transfer”; and

Whereas, the proposed California Assembly Bill 1040 stipulates, “Because this bill would impose new duties on community college districts, it would constitute a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement”; and

Whereas, only Sacramento City College and Cosumnes River College currently offer Ethnic Studies courses, and no Los Rios Community College campus has an Ethnic Studies department;

Resolved, that the Los Rios Community College District Ethnic Studies Council recommends and requests to the District Academic Senate (DAS), advocating for the establishment of Ethnic Studies departments at each college in the district.

Resolved, that the Los Rios Community College District Ethnic Studies Council recommends and requests to the District Academic Senate (DAS), support advocating for a budget for each Ethnic Studies department to include FTE, a department chair, at least two full-time Ethnic Studies faculty hires, and part-time hires.

Resolved, that the Los Rios Community College District Ethnic Studies Council will serve as a resource to guide the four colleges in developing Ethnic Studies departments that will meet the demands of AB 1460 and the proposed AB 1040, and continue the district’s commitment to student success, equity, and diversity.

### References

[Los Rios Community College District Equity and Diversity Statement](#)

[California Assembly Bill No. 1460](#)

[California Assembly Bill No. 1040](#)

Dee, Thomas and Penner, Emily. “The Causal Effects of Cultural Relevance: Evidence from an Ethnic Studies Curriculum,” *American Educational Research Journal* 54(1) (2017).