

Curriculum Review - Culturally Relevant English 5 – 8

Comments from Web

| Group | Score (0 – 5) | Course | Comments |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| Teacher/Community Member | 5 | Mexican American Viewpoint | Please implement the Mexican American literature curriculum without further delay! |
| Community Member | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | Bring back Sean Arce as the director. Get rid of the puppet named Augie Romero. Bring back the wonderful maestro Curtis Acosta. Un-ban the banned books. Stop allowing TPD to show up in full riot gear to intimidate our community. Send HT back to TX. Allow the previous curriculum to be used as it was incredibly successful in engaging our children in critically thinking. All the board members need to re-read the Cambium audit and see that nothing was wrong with the previous program. Stegeman stop calling yourself a Democrat. Hicks, go read up on Rosa Parks. Grow spines and don't let the AZ legislature Horne , Huppenthal and Co bully you... oh wait, you're not letting them as you're actually perpetrators of denying our children education yourself. Why even have this cute little form if you're going to do what you want anyway? Let us review and approve White American History before we indoctrinate our kids with those lies of Christopher Columbus. |
| Community Member | | African American Viewpoint | How do you justify creating required courses for students that force feed biased information. Course for Black-Americans and Mexican-Americans but no mention of courses for Indian-Americans, Asian-Americans, or, how about American-Americans. You claim this will help reduce conflicts between ethnic groups but instead promote deviceness. The folks of this community have clearly stated that they do not want this kind of material taught. You change the names of the courses and think we won't know? You people should be ashamed. |
| Teacher | 0 | African American Viewpoint | I don't understand why we can't offer a multicultural class similar to the one that universities offer. Would not the deseg requirements be met if we were to talk about cultural issues across the board? What about actions against Native Americans or prejudice during world war 2 against Japanese? What about the prejudice and jokes against Swedes and Norwegians? Poles? I think by singling out just the two groups (Mexican American and African American), we promote the idea that they are somehow "less than" the others. Prejudice is wrong no matter who it is against. We all need to learn how to be sensitive to all cultures that are different from ours and learn how to value and esteem them. We should become radical only to become the best we can be, not to put down others (Anglo or otherwise). |

Curriculum Review - Culturally Relevant English 5 – 8

Comments from Web

| Group | Score (0 – 5) | Course | Comments |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| Parent | 0 | African American Viewpoint | I THOUGHT WE LIVE IN AN ENGLISH SPEAKING CONNTRY. IF YOU WOULD WANT ANOTHER VIEWPOINT IN YOUR BODY.....IT SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED..... |
| Community Member | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | All students should be taught the same classes. Teaching history classes have been given to students for a number of years. When you divide students you are creating a us and them atmosphere. I pay taxes and I don't want me taxes going for these classes. I want to school board to listen to those of us thatpay taxes. I went to school and history classes prepared me for college. I vote no on having these classes its just a passive way to have MAS classes |
| Community Member | 0 | African American Viewpoint | This curriculum is political and racially motivated. This is a perfect example of what is destroying the district and causing parents to move to outlying districts. |
| Parent/Community Member | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | I think it is crazy to provide cultural classes for those two groups only. They are either Americans or not, race needs to be taken out of the classroom |
| Parent | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | It is unclear whether these classes will be electives or if they will be required. I would hope that they would be electives, so the students can opt to take them or take the current offerings of AP English Language or AP Literature. Who has the answer to this...???. Would it be possible to post the answer plainly on this website so everyone knows? Thanks, Concerned Parent and Non-Supporter of MAS |
| Parent/Community Member | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | Do you understand we are living in the United States Of America. We should learn about the History of The U.S.A. If you are going to be an American, learn about Our History. If you do not want to learn about the U.S.A. or you are not interested in learning about the U.S.A. don't stay here. If you are interested in learning about the history of your ancestor have your family teach you or you read about it. I am Armenian and Spanish but first I am an American of the United States of American and proud to be one. Did you know that Arizona has a lot of Spanish influence. Why are you not teaching about Spanish history. If you want to teach about the Mexican Americans and the African Americans why are you being racist against the Spanish Americans and the Armenian Americans and the Irish Americans, the Chinese Americans, Italian Americans, etc. You just cannot choose some nations and not all nations of Americans. We used to be all Americans until the activist decided they could have a job by being an activist . I am sick and tired of all this make believe. Start teaching, and help the minorities be successful. |

Curriculum Review - Culturally Relevant English 5 – 8

Comments from Web

| Group | Score (0 – 5) | Course | Comments |
|--------|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| N/A | 5 | African American Viewpoint | I think that the proposed curriculum will give students an excellent overall view of Mexican American history, expose students to a variety of points of view, give them opportunities to develop critical thinking skills, and give students an appreciation for Chicano literature. I would like to know what textbooks will be used to teach the parts of the curriculum where no textbook is cited. As we know, authors have a certain point of view that is brought out in their writing, Rudolfo Acuna for example. Teachers need to have the skills to use controversial books without teaching from a "poor me, powerless victim" point of view. I trust that adequate professional development will be provided for teachers. The teachers who worked on this proposed curriculum did a great job. I thank them. Herman Lucero |
| Parent | 0 | African American Viewpoint | This would make a nice elective choice, but not as a requirement. Due to the constraints on the schools it is more important to focus on classes needed for college as cores, and the rest should be electives. I would not want my child to be required to take a class that is so narrowly focused on a particular race. To make this a requirement there is a need to then add Asian, European, Islander and other viewpoints. College electives are set up for students to focus on a particular viewpoint, not high school. |
| Parent | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | This would make a nice elective choice, but not as a requirement. Due to the constraints on the schools it is more important to focus on classes needed for college as cores, and the rest should be electives. I would not want my child to be required to take a class that is so narrowly focused on a particular race. To make this a requirement there is a need to then add Asian, European, Islander and other viewpoints. College electives are set up for students to focus on a particular viewpoint, not high school. |
| Parent | | African American Viewpoint | They released 1/3 of the teachers at my granddaughters school and dropping all the elective teachers due to budget cuts. These programs are relevant to ALL the children and yet you have funding to put in programs that are only relevant to a select group of kids. Maybe this is one of the reasons parents are pulling kids from TUSD at such a rapid rate. ALL kids count, not just the minorities in the district. Art, Music, Librarians, coaches etc. are all important to give all the children a well rounded education. Unless you are providing special cultural classes in German, Vietnamese, Swedish etc. you are taking from one group to service a special interest. Culture is the parents responsibility to all children. Every year TUSD falls into a deeper hole with regards to educating the kids. |

Curriculum Review - Culturally Relevant English 5 – 8

Comments from Web

| Group | Score (0 – 5) | Course | Comments |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| Community Member | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | N/A |
| N/A | 0 | African American Viewpoint | N/A |
| Community Member | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | Are these suggested mandatory classes for all students? Why does there have to be separate literature classes for the African and Mexican cultures? Can't an American literature class discuss the contributions of all cultures that make up the American culture. In my opinion, distinction like this in courses just further separate the ethnicities. We all have the right to be proud of our ancestry and where our families originated, but there should not be distinction like this in courses unless, hopefully, they are elective courses. If there must be cultural distinction in the courses, then what about the other major ethnic groups? Shouldn't there be a Culturally Relevant Asian American Viewpoint? |
| Community Member | 0 | African American Viewpoint | N/A |
| Parent | 1 | Mexican American Viewpoint | IF learning the struggles of groups of people is significant then TUSD should offer courses on ALL heritages. To REQUIRE this seems a bit absurd however to use it as an "alternative" for earning credit it would be useful for many. I do not see Irish American heritage, German American, etc. If we must break them into categories then offer all of them or make it an elective/alternative for children. |
| N/A | 2 | Mexican American Viewpoint | Not enough emphasis is placed on non-fiction writings as required by the Common Core. |
| Community Member | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | If these kids want that kind of information let them get it online or in a college course. They need to know basic U.S. History, the good, the bad, and the ugly. They also need to be taught that they are Americans first, black, brown, or yellow, and we all bleed red. |
| Parent | 2 | African American Viewpoint | What about the Native American Viewpoint? TUSD is on a slippery slope. You can not please everybody, history is not taught the same the world over. We teach that Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, the Italians teach that it was his aid that invented it. Maps that are English based use England as their starting point while French maps use Paris as theirs. Teach United States history. Teach American English. The parents will teach their children what they want to teach them about their culture and their history. Until I watched America, the story of US on the history channel I believed that all blacks came here as slaves. I learned that that what I had been taught in school was wrong. |

Curriculum Review - Culturally Relevant English 5 – 8

Comments from Web

| Group | Score (0 – 5) | Course | Comments |
|------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Parent | 5 | African American Viewpoint | Thanks! |
| Parent | 5 | Mexican American Viewpoint | Thanks! |
| Community Member | 5 | African American Viewpoint | The Culturally Relevant African American Viewpoint is excellent. It is rigorous and helps students to think critically about topics relevant to their lives. |
| Community Member | 5 | Mexican American Viewpoint | This curriculum is rigorous and engaging. It teaches students to think critically about important issues in their lives and in our country. Very creative use of technology! |
| Parent | 0 | African American Viewpoint Mexican American Viewpoint | Neither of these "viewpoint" studies will do anything to help these children develop skills which they will need to negotiate an ever changing and increasingly challenged society. All they do is create walls, which makes them segregationist by definition. This is not the right path and is only being promoted by those who would use our schools as a playground for their own political agendas at the expense of the children of the community who need, and deserve, a proper education. |
| Community Member | 1 | Mexican American Viewpoint | N/A |
| Teacher | 4 | African American Viewpoint | I am a teacher in NYC, so I understand if you have to disregard this comment. I think both curricula explore well-selected topics but would suggest re-titling them "African American Perspectives" and "Mexican American Perspectives." The current phrasing implies that there is only one viewpoint per group. I congratulate the effort to provide culturally-relevant courses to students and have been dismayed by what happened to the Mexican American Studies program. Thank you. |
| Parent | 4 | African American Viewpoint Mexican American Viewpoint | For both curriculums, I do not understand why there is a political component. ie - the review of political party platforms & WW propaganda posters. I think the choices of literature for review are good. But if this is to be an English class, then I think a political component is unnecessary and potentially inflammatory. Some history lessons are probably necessary to put the literature in context. But the literature selections should stand on their own. "African American Literature" and "Mexican- American Literature" would be better names for the courses & would put the emphasis where it should be. Teach the issues through the literature. Huck Finn & Gone With the Wind show a very different view of the "black man" than the "Invisible Man" does. And yet Huck finn & Invisible Man both deal with the theme of "who am I" (a relevant theme for teenagers). |

Curriculum Review - Culturally Relevant English 5 – 8

Comments from Web

| Group | Score (0 – 5) | Course | Comments |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|---|
| Parent | 5 | Mexican American Viewpoint | N/A |
| Community Member | 3 | African American Viewpoint | On page 42 Eng 5-6 The Mexican American Period An additional topic of study could be the political unrest in Mexico. The religious persecution, political corruption and the influence of Villa and Zapata had much to do with the mind set of immigrants fleeing Mexico. Still today you see many youngsters wearing Zapata T shirts. Do students understand, "es mejor morir de pie, que vivir de rodillas". |
| N/A | 3 | African American Viewpoint | Scars of War section. There is no reference to the number of Mexican Americans who served in our wars abroad and the many that sacrificed their life for our country, especially WWII and Vietnam. |
| Community Member | 2 | Mexican American Viewpoint | What novels, short stories, poems will be used? |
| Community Member | 1 | Mexican American Viewpoint | How about just American History, for this is America that we live in? |
| Parent Teacher Community Member | 0 | African American Viewpoint & Mexican American Viewpoint | This is ridiculous. Why are we separating the races? Shouldn't we be teaching our kids how to continue to work towards equality? How we all need to help one another no matter what race, color or creed? We all have the opportunity to improve our circumstances no matter how dire things look. "If there's a will, there's a way." Give them the many examples that are out there, i.e., single women who have raised successful children on their own, women and men who worked their way out of the streets and poverty. We need to teach our kids they are never to be victims of their circumstances, but they can overcome. They are only oppressed if they allow themselves to be. Be proud of your heritage, but you learn that at home. If they are not teaching them at home, why are we spending money to teach it at school. This is divisive in my opinion. |
| Parent | 4 | Mexican American Viewpoint | Looks good. I hope that teachers will be supported to bring in contemporary issues as well. (controversy over Sebastien de la Cruz as an example.) Film can be a great tool for teaching. For example, Americanos: Latino Life in the United States (81 min., 2001). |
| Teacher | 0 | Mexican American Viewpoint | This curriculum needs to be instructed from a point of view that represents the resentment and confusion surrounding a foreign entity destroying a much more superior way of life. The open to this curriculum should be along the lines of a confession of the crimes perpetuated upon this student population by a people of much lesser understanding. |

Curriculum Review - Culturally Relevant English 5 – 8

Comments from Web

| Group | Score (0 – 5) | Course | Comments |
|------------------|---------------|---|--|
| N/A | 5 | African American Viewpoint | N/A |
| N/A | 5 | Mexican American Viewpoint | N/A |
| Community Member | 5 | Mexican American Viewpoint | N/A |
| Teacher | 1 | Mexican American Viewpoint & African American Viewpoint | Although I can understand how learning about one's own background could be motivational to learning, much of the language used in the essential questions seems racially charged and initially prejudicial. It doesn't allow students to truly formulate their own opinions, but leads them in a certain direction right from the beginning. In both the Mexican American curriculum and the African American curriculum, the separation of the races seems designed to divide all races, rather than to bring them together. In a public school, the curriculum should be inclusive of ALL races and cultures. If students are truly being prepared for future collegiate studies or for entering the work force where they will work with people of all cultures, this curriculum will not accomplish this. Tucson, with the assistance of UA, is a highly multi-cultural area, but these courses don't seem to reflect that. In my opinion, everyone should have to take a unit on as many races as possible, not focus on just one or the other. In order to begin to truly appreciate the struggles, characteristics and paths of people who might be different than oneself, students should be given the privilege of learning about races and cultures outside their own. It's up to educators to provide a multi-cultural education in a public school. |
| Teacher | 3 | African American Viewpoint | It could be effective; it seems too specific however. I hope that the teachers selected to teach these themes (Mexican American curriculum) are strong, knowledgeable, and most importantly that the students see themselves reflected in them. TUSD will continue to do the right thing by teaching courses that represent our community! |
| TUSD Staff | 5 | Mexican American Viewpoint | This is the kind of curriculum I hope my granddaughter can experience when she gets to high school. I also hope that children from non-Latino backgrounds have an opportunity to read literature that frames American life from a Latino perspective. |