



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Los Angeles, CA** | LAUSD becomes the 2<sup>nd</sup> school district in California to make Ethnic Studies a graduation requirement for all students. A pilot program implementing will begin during the 2015-2016 school year and continue to expand until full implementation by 2019.

An implementation Task Force made up teachers, district officials, and experts in the field, will be formed and report back to the school board with budget and implementation details.

“This is a historic moment for the students in Los Angeles,” says Jose Lara, Coordinator for the Ethnic Studies Now Coalition, “This is a continuation of what we have been fighting for since the Civil Rights movement, to be fully recognized, empowered, and for our diverse histories and cultures to be learned in schools.”

Over 3,000 High Schools students, 2,000 community members signed petitions demanding Ethnic Studies become a graduation requirement. Letters of support from over 70 community leaders, elected officials, university professors and local and national organizations wrote letters of support for this resolution and were submitted to the L.A. Unified Board of Education.

The Ethnic Studies resolution was introduced by LAUSD Board Member Bennett Kayser and co-sponsored by Board Members Steve Zimmer and Dr. George McKenna. The resolution passed by a 6-1 vote with Tamar Galatza being the sole vote against. The school board meeting was packed with students and teachers as hundreds of students, parents, and community members rallied outside the building in support of the resolution.

"We are honored to carry this important motion which we believe will help all students to broaden their academic horizons," said Kayser. "This motion is a result of many years of students demanding that we provide culturally relevant curriculum that will help them engage in school."

The Ethnic Studies Now Coalition will continue to organize to ensure Ethnic Studies becomes fully implemented and becomes a model for other school districts to follow.

For more information: [www.EthnicStudiesNow.com](http://www.EthnicStudiesNow.com)