

# NAACP, Partners Celebrate New State Ethnic Studies Standards for Schools

For Immediate Release

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INDIANAPOLIS (July 16, 2018) -- On Tuesday, July 10, the Indiana State Department of Education [released](#) a new ethnic studies course and standards for Indiana schools. Under legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, all school corporations will be required to offer ethnic studies as a one-semester high school elective course at least once per school year.

These standards were developed in conjunction with the NAACP and experts at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

In response, the NAACP and its partners released the following statements:

"The passage of the law mandating the offering of Ethnic Studies in Indiana high schools and, more recently, the establishment of new state standards for this course is indeed a celebratory milestone," said David A. Suzucki, director of the Equity Institute on Race, Culture and Transformative Action at IUPUI. "We cannot, however, rest on our laurels and we must remain vigilant to ensure that the teaching of Ethnic Studies fosters student achievement, especially for students of color. And we must continue our advocacy for multicultural content that helps all students succeed in an increasingly diverse and global work and community environment."

"I am delighted with the work the Department of Education has been accomplishing towards the implementation of Ethnic Studies in the state of Indiana," said Rosa Tezanos-Pinto, chair of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at IUPUI. "Robin L. Leclaire, in conjunction with Garry Holland from NAACP, and leaders from local schools and universities, have joined efforts to create the Indiana Academic Standards for Ethnic Studies. Their expertise and dedication have resulted in an exemplary illustration of principles that will guide the teaching of Ethnic Studies in our state. I am extremely proud to be part of this group of visionaries".

"As a group we worked hard to ensure that the new standards reflect the studies of ethnic groups to begin at the origins and not in the middle of their histories, that the standards cross the curriculum into other subject areas especially English/Language Arts, and school districts have the choice to teach the course

focusing on a particular ethnic or racial group or take a comparative approach across multiple groups," said Garry Holland, Interim Education Chair for the Greater Indianapolis Branch of the NAACP. "This is truly an historic moment for the state of Indiana."

As an offered course, ethnic studies will provide Indiana students the opportunity to broaden their perspectives concerning lifestyles and cultural patterns of ethnic and racial groups within the United States. For more information regarding ethnic studies standards, including resources and support for educators, visit: [www.doe.in.gov/standards](http://www.doe.in.gov/standards).