

Project **California Regional Ethnic Studies Collaborative (CRESC)** Abstract

ESPD Grant Abstract

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), in partnership with the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) and with the support of county office regional leads that encompass the entire state, propose the **California Regional Ethnic Studies Collaborative (CRESC)** project. This project responds to the urgent need to design asset-based systems intentionally aligned to research and best practices to support high-quality ethnic studies implementation. The overarching goal of Project CRESC is to improve academic outcomes for all students through building statewide, regional, and local systems of support for ethnic studies implementation in schools.

Project Design

Project CRESC will leverage the current California Systems of Support (CA-SS), including the following geographic lead areas and county offices of education: Bay Area (Alameda; Capital, Central, Foothills (Placer and Sacramento); Far North (Glenn); Mid-state (Santa Cruz); North Bay/North Coast (Sonoma); Southern CA (San Diego and Riverside); Valley to Coast (Los Angeles), to meet the following CDE goals and tasks:

Goal 1. Develop and deliver robust and effective PL opportunities to build the capacity (awareness, knowledge, and skills) of educators to support and expand ES courses

Goal 2. Curate, develop, and expand ethnic studies resources shared on an online repository (Ethnic Studies Hub) for educators to support ES courses and improve outcomes for students across CA

Project Leadership Structures and Roles

Project Leadership Team (LT): SDCOE/RCOE

Ethnic Studies Statewide Collaborative: Consists of the project leadership team and regional COE leads. The Regional Leadership Team will meet monthly to discuss project implementation and data collection.

Ethnic Studies Regional and County Collaboratives:

- **Regional COE Leads (RL):** These COEs will hold monthly **Regional Ethnic Studies Collaboratives** with regional teams and county office ethnic studies leads
- **Regional Team (RT):** teachers, leaders, paraprofessionals, specialists from LEAs, and professional development providers; reflect a cross-section of regional, urban, rural, racial, ethnic, and other demographic characteristics
- **County Leads (CL):** These COEs (57) will hold monthly **County Ethnic Studies Collaboratives** with teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals in local schools and districts

Evaluation Team (ET): University of California, San Francisco

Advisory: A small advisory group will be selected through an application process and include a cross-section of ethnic studies experts from high education and nonprofits

Workgroup Leads (WL): LT/RL/CLs will identify workgroups based on initial needs assessment data, collected through the Liberatory Design process.

Workgroup Teams (WT): Several workgroup teams will be identified in the first quarter of the project. During the first quarter of the project, the regional leads will identify areas of need to inform the Project CRESC workgroups. Based on recent regional (SDCOE/RCOE) ethnic

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studies data collection, local county leads have documented the need for the following ethnic studies workgroups across the region:

- **ESMC** (African American, Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x, Native American, and Asian American and Pacific Islander, including the appendices groups Arab American, Armenian American, Jewish American, and Sikh American)
- **High School Ethnic Studies** (History-Social Science, including ethnic literature, environmental literacy, VAPA, world languages)
- **Liberatory Design** (community-based pedagogies, systems improvement/coaching for urban and rural contexts)
- **K-8 Education** (community-based instruction, elementary/dual language pathways, history social/science, and VAPA)

Key Project Activities and Deliverables

- Develop and deliver high-quality professional learning, statewide in two phases:
 - Year 1 - Foundations of Ethnic Studies.
 - Year 2 - Implementation of Ethnic Studies
- Facilitate high-quality, collaborative Regional Communities of Practice inclusive of administrators, teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals
- Develop and maintain an online resource repository (Ethnic Studies Hub) Collect, vet, develop, and review additional professional learning and instructional resources

