

**Resolution
of the Mexican American School Boards Association
in Support of Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills
for Mexican American Studies**

WHEREAS Latino/Latina/Latinx students now comprise the majority of students in our Texas public schools and are expected, according to the Hobby Center at Rice University, to grow to 67% of school-age children in Texas by 2050; and

WHEREAS courses in Mexican American Studies offer all students the opportunity to explore the rich history, literature, culture and traditions of the Latino/Latina/Latinx students of our Texas public schools; and

WHEREAS research indicates positive educational outcomes for students who engage in Mexican American Studies, particularly with respect to retention, student engagement, grades, grade point average, passing rates on standardized tests, high school graduation, postsecondary studies, and the development of an inclusive view of society; and

WHEREAS students of all races and ethnicities currently enroll in courses in Mexican American Studies and enjoy the benefits of this study; and

WHEREAS Mexican American Studies is recognized as an academic discipline in several colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and is rooted in more than 40 years of serious knowledge production; and

WHEREAS Mexican American Studies is inclusive of the diverse experiences and contributions of all Latino/Latina/Latinx communities, whose experiences and contributions cannot be fully understood apart from the context of the Mexican American population that has richly contributed to the culture and history of the Great State of Texas; and

WHEREAS broad constituencies throughout the State of Texas—including a great number of Texas public school teachers, administrators and trustees, and a great number of persons in the member districts of the Mexican American School Boards Association—wish to make possible the study of Mexican American Studies for the students of our Texas public schools; and

WHEREAS courses in Mexican American Studies are currently being offered in our Texas public schools, despite the absence, in many cases, of an approved textbook and an approved, coherent curriculum; and

WHEREAS the pretext is no longer deemed acceptable that TEKS for Mexican American Studies will not be formulated until TEKS are formulated for other broader disciplines, including Ethnic Studies and/or Latino/Latina/Latinx Studies, or until much-needed TEKS are formulated for such intersectional disciplines as African American Studies, Native American & Indigenous Studies, Asian American Studies, Woman Studies, or LGBTQ Studies; and

WHEREAS the pretext is no longer deemed acceptable that it might be “wrong” for a course or curriculum to focus on any one ethnic group, as the courses of many public colleges and universities do; and

WHEREAS no state-approved textbook exists for Mexican American Studies due to a lack of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mexican American Studies; and

WHEREAS many schools and districts in Texas lack the curriculum expertise to develop courses in Mexican American Studies; and

WHEREAS experts in the field of Mexican American Studies are offering at no cost to the State of Texas their expertise to assist with the development of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for a state-approved Mexican American Studies curriculum; and

WHEREAS consideration of the State Board of Education for Mexican American Studies has been requested since 2014, resulting in little more than the State Board of Education's consideration of two proposed Mexican American Studies textbooks that were deemed by many to be racist and/or filled with inaccuracies; and

WHEREAS members of the State Board of Education have spoken of their support for basing a state-approved course in Mexican American Studies on an elective course currently taught by the Houston Independent School District; and

WHEREAS the unwillingness of the State Board of Education to approve a process and timeline for the creation of TEKS for Mexican American Studies at this time will be interpreted by many within the context of such difficult conversations as race, privilege, power, stratification, homogenization and inequity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association requests that the Texas State Board of Education approve posthaste a process and timeline for the development of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mexican American Studies, so that the State of Texas and the students of its public schools will enjoy the benefits that will accrue through the development of such Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mexican American Studies.

Passed this 21st day of March, 2018.

Homero Garcia, President

Willie Tenorio, Jr., Acting Secretary