

ACA-6

California Native American Indian Act

Position: Support

Secular Advocate Talking Points

- We believe that to prepare students to live and contribute productively to our diverse, pluralistic society, we must tell students the complete truth about our nation and our state's history.
- Without fully addressing the truth, we cannot help eliminate these social injustices that have long been ignored and which persist today.
- These curriculum guidelines would help promote more honest and accurate civic engagement among students.
- Currently, the historical pain and discrimination against Native Americans are presented with historical inaccuracies in school curriculum, which only focuses on Native American missions, or is altogether unaddressed.
- The information Native Americans are learning from their elders and what they learn from our school are in conflict.
- For example, one historical incident not taught in state classrooms is the massacre of Pomo Indians in 1850 near Clear Lake, committed by the United States Cavalry. This would later be named the Bloody Island Massacre, a government-sanctioned plot to exterminate Native Americans. Due to inadequate education on the topic, this event is not well-known amongst California students.
- There should be thoughtful and comprehensive instructional standards that include education about the Native American people of the State of California, ensuring that history and social science instruction reflect the state's true history.
- We cannot change the past, but we can teach about what happened to this population and share ways that their culture has made great contributions to California.