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**Statement on Proclamation 2018, proposed Ethnic Studies materials
“Mexican American Studies Toolkit”**

This morning, the Texas State Board of Education voted against adopting the “Mexican American Studies Toolkit,” authored by Tony Diaz. Many of you know that Tony is a colleague and a longtime friend. Many of you also know that the original call-to-action in 2014, was a request for a course - coming from students, parents, K-12 teachers, college professors, and community.

The TXSBOE decided that a call to publishers was the best way to move forward on bringing Ethnic Studies to Texas. What many people may not know is that standards are guidelines issued to publishers so they can create a textbook which best serves our students and educators. Issuing a Proclamation (i.e., asking for a book) is the most backward path to take if we want an effective course and great textbook. Example of just how backwards: the Board’s call to publishers resulted in the Mexican American Heritage disaster of November 2016. To this Board’s credit, that book was unanimously voted out.

This morning, however, was another lesson in exactly why we (TXSBOE) should have called for a course rather than ask for another book in the re-issued Proclamation. We asked for a book - we received a book... ‘to be used where’ is the bigger issue. Tony’s book contains great chapters which are applicable to high school English and/or History courses. It is not, however, a textbook for a course which does not exist.