



Oregon  
Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**

Director of the Department of Education

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**TO: Chair Neron & Members of the House Education Committee**

**DATE: Feb 21, 2023**

**FROM: Zoe Larmer, Government Relations Director**

**RE: Question posed about HB 2905**

Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide information in regards to House Bill 2095. ODE has no position on this bill at this time. We are more than happy to continue providing information to you on our work and look forward to our continued partnership on behalf of all Oregon students. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need further information.

With gratitude,  
Zoe Larmer

### **Questions & Answers For HB 2905**

**Question: If the standards include Middle Eastern cultures, does it cover Jewish culture as well?**

***Response:***

HB 2095 would add Jewish descent to ORS 329.045, and will therefore require the inclusion of the histories, contributions, perspectives of this identity group as with the other identity groups named in ORS. This bill clarifies the framework to both leave Middle Eastern descent in the definition and include a more specific group—individuals of Jewish descent—making it more inclusive and expansive.

The passage of this bill would not undo any work, and the standards inclusive of ethnic studies are still on track for school year 26-27.