

Proclamation 2017 General Comments: Public

Source	Affiliation, if applicable	Publishing Company	Subject Area	Course/Grade Level	Program Title	General Comment
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	10	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am asking the State Board of Education to reject the proposed textbook on Mexican American Heritage studies. Various reviews conducted by scholars reveal that the textbook is filled with inaccurate information, includes offensive racial stereotypes, distorts the history of civil rights and paints a negative image of Mexican Americans as anti-American and dangerous.</p> <p>Mexican Americans (Tejanos) have made great contributions in Texas for the last two hundred years, yet those contributions have either been distorted or completely ignored in school history textbooks.</p> <p>This textbook provides an opportunity to teach our future generations of the contributions of Mexican Americans. Let's do it right!</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	11	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am asking the Texas Board of Education to reject the proposed textbook for Mexican American Studies because, as many scholars have noted, the factual errors in the book are too many and too outrageous for any classroom, and especially classrooms focused on teaching ethnic studies.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>THIS TEXTBOOK SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED. IT IS RACIST AND GROSSLY INACCURATE. ADDITIONALLY, WRITTEN BY UNQUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO APPARENTLY MERELY PUBLISHED THEIR OPINIONS AS OPPOSED TO ACTUAL HISTORICAL FACTS. ADOPTING THIS BOOK WOULD BE A GRAVE DISSERVICE TO OUR TEXAS HISTORY AND HISPANIC CULTURE. THANK YOU.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Special Topics	<p>The expectations are clear through the Knowledge and Skills and Student Expectation Statements. Although, the statements containing the phrase "such as" are intended as possible illustrative examples, a clear list of topic suggestions to provoke student interest would be an added value.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>As a Latina, mother and a retired public school teacher I reject the proposed textbook. Mexican-American/Latino(a)/Chicano(a) scholars are in agreement that the proposed textbook contains many historical inaccuracies as well as statements that are at best misinformed but really read as biased, prejudiced and based on common stereotypes. I have read critiques written by Latino scholars and am happy to let their observations speak for me on an academic level regarding inaccuracies, historical and otherwise.</p> <p>On a personal level as a Latina, mother and retired educator I am angry and appalled that such a proposed publication has gotten this far in the long process of textbook adoption. Yes, a textbook is needed, as are curriculum and qualified teachers to teach it. Early in my career I taught such a course when there was no textbook. I gathered whatever I could find, shared and discussed it with informed colleagues and then presented it to my middle school students. I then evaluated and rewrote as needed. I cannot imagine such a text being compiled and written by someone who has no connection to the experience and background of the Mexican-American/Chicano(a)/Latino(a). And yet, 40 years later this is exactly what we are presented with. It appears to be written by a non-Latino who read, compiled and edited stories from old newspapers, magazines and oral histories disseminated by a non-Latino. Is this really the best we can collectively do? If we are to be intellectually and morally honest with ourselves as educators and as a society the answer is a resounding NO. Our students, families and taxpayers want and deserve an honest story of our past. Not only will it be a dishonest product, it will be a huge waste of taxpayer money and worst of all it will be around for a long time, all around the country as a definitive textbook of the Mexican-American experience. I say we take this project back to the drawing board and have a call for manuscripts to which all interested parties can respond and contribute. It may be a little-known fact among non-Latinos but there are and have been many academics and educators who have contributed to the large body of scholarly work that already exists.</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Dear Members of the Texas State Board on Education:</p> <p>The proposed textbook on Mexican American Studies that you are charged with approving is so marred by errors-from inaccurate information to blatantly false truths, stereotypes and unbalanced perspectives-such that it renders the textbook before you as inappropriate and obsolete for today's 21st century students who deserve to learn about Texas and her history and story in as truthful and accurate a manner as possible.</p> <p>Such a textbook has no place in a Texas classroom or in any instructional curriculum. It would be an insult to your constituents, the Texans who elected you because we presumed that you could tell the difference between a truth and falsehood. Do we really want to be the butt of jokes nationally and internationally because you knowingly adopted a textbook that you knew full well-from the date that scholars of the Responsible Ethnic Studies Textbook Coalition have provided you- was inappropriate for our students?</p> <p>Your decision to adopt without taking into account the falsehoods in this proposed textbook would adversely affect students' knowledge about Texas and her history. Please consider the expert testimony you have heard from the best Texas scholarship on Mexican American history. Resolve to provide Texas students their right to accurate, truthful information. In the words of the noted education reform scholar Chester Finn: "To rely for one's course content and lesson plans on inferior instructional materials is like boxing with an arm tied behind one's back: success is apt to prove elusive."</p> <p>Member, Responsive Ethnic Studies Textbook Coalition</p>
Public	NA	Unknown	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I find the content of this book concerning Chicanos and Mexican Americans whether legal or illegal to be hostile towards people of Mexican heritage. I feel strongly that this book is not appropriate to be consider for use in any Texas school.</p> <p>Why didn't the State Board that are harder look at the Muslim books and Muslim teaching books dictated by Obama. Books that remove Chistianity from our schools. We were built on believing in God in the Country and that seems to be stripped away ever where we turn.</p> <p>Now you want to do the same to Hispanics? Who are you all? This is Texas, Hispanics are everywhere and no where that I know if have Hispanics conducted destruction to TX or the US.</p> <p>This book must not be approved for public schools use.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	History	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>This book is based on opinion and not facts. The excerpts from this book are racist and offensive to Mexicans Americans and Hispanic culture. This biased commentary about Mexicans has no place in a history book or educational materials in the state of Texas. This author is not someone recognized as a scholar by the state of Texas.</p> <p>"Frankly, that author is not recognized as someone who is part of the Mexican-American studies scholarship and most individuals engaged in scholarship will not recognize her as an author," said Douglas Torres-Edwards, coordinator of a Houston-TEA approved Mexican American studies course.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	History	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I have been following this situation in the Houston Chronicle for several months now. It has become apparent that this is a gross distortion of the subject matter and has no place in our Texas education system. I implore you to act responsibility and put an end to any consideration of this text. Our students deserve better. I was raised in Memphis in the 1950's and my well versed in what this type of misinformation can do over time. Please do not allow this to get into our school system. To do so would do more harm than not teaching the subject at all. Thank you for your consideration!</p>
Public	KELLER ISD PARENT/VOLUNTEER	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	HS -COLLEGE	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>THIS IS A DISRESPECTFUL REPRESENTATION OF THE MEXICAN AMERICANS AND ALL OF HUMANITY. IT IS SLANDEROUS. IT GIVES ALL STUDENTS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW SOCIETIES CAN BE AFFECTED BY INACCURATE AND UNTRUE INFORMATION. AS A PARENT, AND A 30 YEAR RESIDENT OF TEXAS, I AM APPAULED AT THE AUDACITY OF A PUBLISHING COMPANY TO TRY TO INTRODUCE EVEN MORE DISCRIMINATION AND HATE DIRECTED AT THE MEXICAN AMERICANS, EVEN MORE SO IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES OF IMMIGRATION ISSUES.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	HS -COLLEGE	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I sat here at my computer reading articles from the Texas Observer, MySanAntonio.com, The Texas Tribune, and our own Austin-American Statesmen with the intent of gathering information with which to make a compelling argument for or against the approval of the new Mexican-American textbook. I was quickly overwhelmed with facts and scholarly opinions denouncing said textbook. From my understanding, the book is highly erroneous, racist, derogatory toward Latinos, belittling of Latino contributions and influence in U.S. history, and the list goes on. I implore you to recognize the poor quality of the material present in the text and understand the effects it will have not only on our growing Hispanic population in Texas but also to how that population is viewed by others. Please do not approve the Mexican American Heritage textbook.</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Middle	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>This book is an insult to the Mexican American culture and racist, at its core. It contains facts that are not true an insulting to those of us whose families have always been in Texas since it became of the US. The authors of the book are not experts in their field and should not be relied upon to teach our children. Experts should have been asked to submit appropriate, factually correct and researched materials. Unlike the African-American community, there is a complete lack and disregard of education on Mexican Americans, Latinos and the Chicano culture as a whole. Last time I checked, we are a border state and we need to work to educate our children about the true facts--but what some white, right-winged conservative think tank thinks is "correct" about our culture. Despicable is the only word I can think of. Get it right TEA. It is your job to ensure our children are educated based on reality and facts---not biased opinion. Here are some excerpts that are the most disturbing: Chicanos are described as people who "adopted a revolutionary narrative that opposed Western civilization and wanted to destroy this society." Really? Not my great grandparents, grandparents and parents. We have embraced the American culture along with our Mexican culture.</p> <p>In another passage, Mexican Americans are linked to undocumented immigrants.</p> <p>Illegal immigration has "caused a number of economic and security problems in the United States," the textbook notes. "Poverty, drugs, crime, non-assimilation, and exploitation are among some of these problems. Studies have shown that the Mexican American community suffers from a significant gap in education levels, employment, wages, housing, and other issues relating to poverty that persist through the second, third, and fourth generations." Really? My family (and others that I know) are educated doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, researchers and beyond. This is insulting to paint us with a broad brush.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	middle and high school	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Dear Sirs or Madams,</p> <p>I have decided to write in hopes that you take in consideration the idea that you should reject this textbook to be taught in our schools. This book is filled with flaws, biases, and a downright racist view. As an American it is important to understand our multicultural history and the long intertwined relationship with our neighbors to the south. I find it appalling that you would chose a book that is not supported by scholars in its field of study.</p> <p>By choosing this book you are doing a disservice to the community and Texas. You are further supporting the preconceived notion that Texas is a wasteland filled with racist anti-intellectuals who are ill educated and backwards. This book does not represent my America, this book does not represent my Texas.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Special Topics in Social Studies	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>This book is filled with blatant lies and misinformation and the only reason I see for it is that the publisher and authors have an agenda to lower the self esteem of American children of Mexican decent. They do not want a population of educated American children of Mexican decent to have self pride.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Special Topics in Social Studies	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>This book is filled with blatant lies and misinformation and the only reason I see for it is that the publisher and authors have an agenda to lower the self esteem of American children of Mexican decent. They do not want a population of educated American children of Mexican decent to have self pride.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>To the office of TEA,</p> <p>Please accept and consider the following comments. While I have not read the whole text of Mexican American Heritage book I would like to express my comments on he excerpts of the text (Mexican American Heritage) that have been publicly criticized, to include the following:</p> <p>Page 415 of the sample textbook states, "Chicanos, on the other hand, adopted a revolutionary narrative that opposed Western civilization and wanted to destroy this society."</p> <p>Personally I have understood the word "Chicano" as a word to describe, or interchangeable with words like, "Latino, Hispano, Mexican-American. The narrative and characterization presented in the text Mexican American Heritage inaccurately presents the term Chicano to describe, or project, an entire culture or race of people as being opposed to "Western civilization" (i.e. mixed-cultural, American based ideology). On the contrary Chicano's, Latinos, and Hispanos have contributed to many changes in an "American" based system such that a number of minorities may have benefited. The fight for equal rights, dignity, and fair treatment has been recognized as just cause for passive opposition and peaceful protest in many instances of which many Chicanos have been involved. The text presents Chicano from a very very limited world view perspective. Definitely not a text which I would want my son to read.</p> <p>On the contrary, history tells us of far greater, much more significant, and valid examples which exhibit the destruction of societies such as prohibition of culture, control of expression, oppression of people, and more appalling examples of war. In my opinion, the text includes subjective exaggerations that are essentially misleading to some who may be un-accluturated or oblivious to the alternative Chicano movement that has been well integrated to the mixed-culture American society.</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Dear Board Members:</p> <p>I have reviewed the comments by scholars about this text – 4 of 5 of whom are from Texas – and their objections to this text book. I have looked at the book myself.</p> <p>I agree this text is flawed and presents in an inaccurate review of Mexican American history in Texas. Furthermore, I believe these inaccuracies will not nurture the self esteem and self respect necessary for Texas school children to grow and have an accurate appreciation for the contributions of Mexican American culture to Texas and the United States.</p> <p>I ask that you not confirm this book for use in Texas schools and find one that is, in fact, accurate.</p> <p>Yours truly,</p>
Public	Candidate for Justice on the Texas Supreme Court	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>The damage done by Americans to the cultures autochthonous to this hemisphere was done through their exclusive and racist articulation of the identity of “the People of America” supposedly under the rule of law. The proposed Texas Education Textbook Mexican American Heritage continues this on-going deception of the world and posterity. A deception started by Americans when they invented themselves “the people” of the Thirteen English Colonies and then proceeded to claim all the way to the Pacific as they supposedly dragged their said status with them. The deception was made initially by the “Founding Fathers” of the Americans when, in 1776, they inserted themselves as a “new people” into the then sprouting European Conspiracy of Conquest over the Western Hemisphere. These subjects of the English Monarch then presumed to drag that self-denomination of “the People” with them so that, the instant they achieved a viable articulation of having “removed” the “Indian People” from a place they coveted, thereupon proclaiming themselves “the Ultimate Sovereign” thereof and thus establish their Invader Governance over all this “America” yet today devoid of any and all Autochthonous participation.</p> <p>This scheme was first devised when the “subjects” of King George III realized that colonization could proceed after the “Revolutionary War” had been “resolved” with absolutely no input from “the Indians.” The scheme had been revealed to the Invaders alone because of their exclusive development of the common law in England so that the ability to so proclaim the condition and status of the Autochthonous now disclosed that, by proclaiming the Indigenous “incompetent,” the land of the entire hemisphere was rendered “vacant” and therefore judicially open to Europeans creating their governance over so much as they could thus articulate themselves “the People” of before the Indigenous Peoples became aware of what was taking place.</p> <p>Because the Invaders decreed themselves alone “competent” to accrue “rights,” they, and not “the Indians” could be pronounced “the People” pursuant to rules invidiously established and today yet so maintained, and for these reasons this book must be rejected. I have personal knowledge of this because my input as an “Indian with rights preexisting Americans” is still today excluded and this Invader-Governance is still now committing genocide by monopolizing articulations such as that affected in the proposed textbook.</p>
Public	NA		Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>I am writing you this morning in response to an article in the Austin American Statesman that ran about a textbook that is under consideration for adoption, "Mexican American Heritage". I have not had the opportunity to read the book myself and can only go by the highlighted sections of material that were presented in the news story. A history book should be written about facts or historical data that really happened and not a fiction book that could rival Clancy.</p> <p>The new generation of students, hispanic, white, african american, asian and all others deserve a true perspective on Mexican American history. Imagine students reading untruths about American or Texan heroes and growing up not really knowing the truth.</p> <p>Texas, a state that is rich with enrollments of hispanic students in area school districts that the textbook adopted for their classes should be truthful because we owe this to our future generations. Not everything included has to be positive but it needs to be honest. My grandchildren who are students of Manor ISD here in Texas deserve to be given a book to study from that tells about this history because if those turn of events wouldn't have happened, then the face of this community might not look the same.</p> <p>Please consider dropping this book and finding an alternative that speaks to true Mexican American history.</p> <p>With much respect.</p>

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Public	Private American Citizen/constituent	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am a concerned Christian-of -Mexican American descent, who feels that the progress of the Texas Education Agency (School Board) leadership has been fundamentally successful in obtaining our TAG , Sped Ed, Refugees, at risk , multicultural , students with better prepared thru supportive programs which response to building the fullest potential and emphasize on their strengths. As a School Psychologist I work with students who battle with identity crisis due to perceptions that correlate with lack of self confidence ,self esteem, negative role models , and an immense focus on weak and negative narratives of self and lack of a support system at home. I work with students between the ages of 5-20 year olds who are facing depression, anxiety, trauma, abuse, neglect, aggressive behavior, suicide ideation, identity crisis, domestic violence, truancy , failing grades, divorce, family adjustment, poverty , crime, etc. I consider myself blessed to have been brought by a two parent home who were significantly positive role models to me and my siblings. Even though there was much poverty and crime around us,their focus to be examples through their faith, dedication , and continuous efforts to involve us through our ethnic history and our assimilation in the United States helped guide us . More over, visiting professionals and conversations of the importance of higher education created a narrative of attainable goals. My primary family was a strong support unfortunately today many family's are missing that support and secondary family's which happened to be the school systems, are left with the responsibility of creating those fundamental values that accentuate a safe and healthy environment. TEA has promoted program initiatives that have and are supporting character building , school guidance, academic success, and high education initiatives. The goal to the student's success has been encouraged by helping them perceive the notion of the ability and/or effort to accomplish the best they can be. Your continued encouragement through programs and funding demonstrates that building self concepts, self esteem, and positive thinking creates and achieves focusing on the student's strengths. The idea of accepting a book which knowingly has inconsistencies which depict negative narratives do not and will not continue the success but digress your efforts. You are our leaders and "parents" who need to stand strong against shameful misrepresented identities.</p>
Public	Dr. Hector P. Garcia American GI Forum	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>The Chicano story has long been silenced in our public schools. As a result, generations of Mexican American children have grown into adults who have many questions about their cultural identity and where they came from. The proposed textbook, "Mexican Heritage" by Momentum Instruction, is flat out racist and politically rooted, aimed at further eradicating a proud and rich culture.</p> <p>The proposed text is riddled with factual errors. The owner of the publishing company and contributing author, Cynthia Dunbar, an ex SBOE member (how convenient), has absolutely no background in academia. It's very clear to read through the lines that she is imposing her agenda on religion and politics. Why would any public school want a textbook from someone who publicly stated that "public schools are tools of perversion"?</p> <p>The narrative is unfocused and our Mexican American history is discredited page after page. The authors describe Mexicans as lazy- "Mexican laborers were not reared to put in a full's day work so vigorously".</p> <p>The truth is our Chicano people are very hard workers. In fact, they had to work extra hard because their land was taken from them. In fact, we work so hard, Chicanos are the most highly decorated ethnic group of our United States military. We have many heroes who have made contributions to the state and this country. Heroes like Emma Tenayuca, Roy Benavidez, and Dr. Hector Garcia. Unfortunately, many of us go to school and never learn about them. We grow up feeling less than because none of the heroes we read about looked like us.</p> <p>What is a high school student going to think and feel when he or she reads a book that states Chicanos want to destroy American society and how immigrants are to blame for economic and security problems. School is supposed to educate and empower our students, all our students. The proposed textbook is a clear attack on our proud and rich heritage.</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>The Texas State Board of Education needs to reject the proposal of using the Mexican American Heritage textbook in any and all classrooms, because it is not only inaccurate, but also extremely offensive. The fact that it is even being considered is not only baffling, but sickening as well. The writer of the textbook, Cynthia Dunbar, is an open republican, conservative, and an obvious racist. This textbook gives an incredibly inaccurate history of the Mexican American people, and if classrooms teach this textbook, they are not only refusing to spread accurate knowledge, but they will be agreeing to spread hate and lies. Mexican American's already have to go through with living in a country that does not even recognize our race. We live in a country whose media already paints us as terrible people. Mexican Americans do not need anymore hate than we are already receiving, especially with the presidential candidates that are running this election year. We do not need any more lies spread about us. We have accepted the lies we have already been taught, like how Christopher Columbus was a hero, and how The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican/American War. We have accepted those lies, but spreading more lies, and more hate about our people will cause damage that will never be able to be unheard. Living in the United States as an American citizen is told to be a perfect. What everyone else in the world dreams of. I, an American citizen, am a Mexican. I was born and raised in America, I have never committed a crime, I am currently a student in higher education, I am a good person, I do not curse, or use God's name in vain, so tell me why a textbook is being considered to paint me as a rapist, a drug dealer, or an "illegal." I do not want your job; I will work for my own career. Do not blame my people for your laziness. We are not "stealing" anything. In my Mexican family, no one has ever gone to jail, no one has ever raped anyone, not one member has ever been anything but good. We have all worked hard for what we have, we have all worked hard for the way we dress, look, and yet people still perceive us as crooks, and villains. If this textbook gets adopted, my people will be seen even less than we are seen as now. There will be no hope for us in this country, which might be the whole basis of this book in the first place (other than the profit she will be receiving of course). Mexican American Heritage, written by Cynthia Dunbar, needs to be rejected</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am asking the Texas State Board of Education to reject the proposed textbook for Mexican American studies. The excerpts that I have read are offensive on many levels. Not only are they racist, but also factually untrue. I agree with the scholars who have spoken out against this "textbook". It has no place in the classroom.</p> <p>I myself am Mexican-American, Chicana, born in San Antonio, TX. Growing up, I would have loved to have had the opportunity to learn about Mexican American studies. I had to wait until I got to college. Now, I look forward to my daughters being able to learn about their history and for other young Texans to be able to learn about and appreciate the contributions of Mexican Americans. I am proud of the fact that Texas is moving forward with offering a Mexican American studies course, but it must be done correctly and with care.</p> <p>It is no secret that Texas prides itself on its history and that the teaching of this history is extensive to say the least. To add a textbook that distorts history and reinforces offensive racial stereotypes would be a detriment to the credibility of our state. Mexican American studies scholars should be involved in developing the curriculum from beginning to end. Just the fact that this textbook so obviously misrepresents the Chicano movement is evidence enough that it has no place in classrooms. Please reconsider other texts that respect the history and culture that I so proudly am a part of.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	9th - 12th	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>The textbook entitled "Mexican American Heritage" should not be allowed to be used as a history book in Texas schools because it is not an accurate depiction of Mexican Americans. Whereas there are many experts in the field of Mexican American history, most of the expert scholars agree that the book is not accurate, diminishes the status of Mexican Americans in society, and is very derogatory to those in the culture that have been very successful. That Mexican Americans are "lazy" is a myth that has been repeated over the generations during the years of discrimination to elevate others to a level of superiority. People of Latin extraction have built the roads of this country, harvested the produce, and contributed as professionals in all the professions. This country has been enriched by the contributions of Mexican Americans in the areas of food, music and language. Any book adopted for Texas schools should portray the positive images of Mexican Americans and what they have done for this great state and country. It is my wish that the State Board of Education of Texas deny the adoption of the book "Mexican American Heritage" but that it continues to find an appropriate book for adoption that depicts an accurate and constructive description of a people that have come a long way just like other American immigrants and continues to improve.</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Mexican-American Heritage textbook. This book is an underdeveloped, uninformed, biased account of Mexican-American history. Many scholars have noted the irrelevance of multiple chapters, as it pertains to Mexican-American history. Authors of the textbook have left out many critical events, policies and historical processes that are necessary to inform students of Mexican-American history. Critical thinking skills are invaluable; educators have long promoted the practice of presenting the youth with complex and challenging facts, and allowing them to ponder and learn through thoughtful reasoning. There is a rich Hispanic culture that should be explored fully, but when we paint a rich and colorful history in black and white, our students become less engaged and lose out on the opportunity to gain quality knowledge. Do we want today's youth to grow up with a narrow education? That which breeds closed-mindedness? Or do we want to raise a more enlightened ethnorelative population? When we narrow the curriculum to the least controversial material, we are leaving out the most relevant material. When the negative aspects of history are glossed over, students become unable to learn from history's mistakes. They miss out on the opportunity to think critically about what could have been done differently. United States Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart understood, "Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself. It is a hallmark of an authoritarian regime." Scholars have also pointed out the complete lack of females in this textbook. Let's not be mistaken by assuming that there weren't any notable Mexican-American women throughout the last few centuries (although this is what we are implying to our students). This textbook is not worthy of our time or our money, and allowing it to circulate into our schools would do a great disservice to our children. The authors of this textbook are not qualified to write this material, and there are many scholars who are willing to contribute, given the opportunity. We must demand honest and defensible accounts of history in our textbooks. We must refuse to negotiate with authors and publishers who succumb to the demands of special interest groups who seek to distort history. We must make an example out of this textbook draft. Your time and efforts will not be rewarded if the material is not accurate and impartial.</p>
Public	The Seguin Community Forum	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>We are sure you are all tired of all the attention the proposed adoption of the textbook "Mexican American Heritage" has generated. However, we would be disrespecting our very own purpose if we didn't speak out loud, purposely and aggressively. We represent a diverse group of citizens who are growing increasingly frustrated with the politicization of the education of our children. The SBOE should not be Republicans or Democrats, Right or Left, it should be made up of true Texans and true Americans, members who understand that history is always changing, depending on the information that is discovered or revealed. The contributions of all races, of all ethnicities, of all cultures need to be taught. It's important for our children, it's important for our future. No matter the politics, no one group can accept the honor of the creation of Texas and/or the USA. The truth hasn't even been discovered yet. What we can honestly state is that all cultures contributed to the exploitation of the resources of the Americans and thus to the development of the society in which we live in now. We acknowledge that it is not easy to decide what can and should be taught to our children. However, history should be factual and current, depending on the facts that are being discovered every single day. History should not be opinionated or interpreted by the right or the left, by Democrats or Republicans. It should be delivered as factual as possible and allow the student to interpret it as he or she sees it. Universities and Colleges have been offering Tejano and Mexican American studies for many years. Why can't we consider the textbooks they are using and have been using for all this time? What are we missing here? What is behind this controversial consideration, money? Enough negative and disrespectful comments have been made by both SBOE members and those opposed to this adoption. What we are asking is for intelligent adults to stand up for all Texans. Those elected to represent all Texans should stop the childish, ignorant responses, and work towards bringing all sides together for the comprehensive, inclusive and factual education of all of our children. We implore you, no we demand it! Do not even enter into this discussion. Do not adopt the "Mexican American Heritage" textbook. The very respectability of the SBOE depends on this, at least in the way we see it.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>This textbook is currently blatantly ignoring the struggles of thousands of Mexican Americans in our history. The preservation of our country's history is a responsibility on all citizens towards their country and towards all those who gave their efforts and lives to the establishment of this country. No matter how gory, it is our duty to extract lessons from our history and give honor to those who were treated unjustly. Even though these events are an embarrassment to our country, there is no good that comes from lying about them or beating them under the rug. We are simply making ourselves and our children oblivious and ignorant to the struggles of those who have lived here before us.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>This textbook is currently blatantly ignoring the struggles of thousands of Mexican Americans in our history. The preservation of our country's history is a responsibility on all citizens towards their country and towards all those who gave their efforts and lives to the establishment of this country. No matter how gory, it is our duty to extract lessons from our history and give honor to those who were treated unjustly. Even though these events are an embarrassment to our country, there is no good that comes from lying about them or beating them under the rug. We are simply making ourselves and our children oblivious and ignorant to the struggles of those who have lived here before us.</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	I would like to recommend to the Texas Board of Education to consider replacing the textbook with a one that has more of an accurate description of Mexican Americans. The book, Mexican American Heritage, is highly inaccurate in the way that they are describing the Native Americans. The textbooks neglects to mention that the Native American city Cahokia, was one of the largest urban areas, instead they just describe the Native Americans in the most extreme simple way they can, by using the most common knowledge that anyone can get by the media and entertainment. Next inaccurate descriptions in the textbook, Mexican American Heritage is the way that they have portrayed the Chicanos and the whole Chicano movement, saying that the Chicanos wanted to destroy a society when in reality the movement was for equal rights and access to programs created under the Great Society.
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I have read the reviews by Mexican-American Scholars in the State of Texas and it seems clear that this textbook is flawed and filled with factual errors and I am asking that the state board reject it.</p> <p>The textbook contains offensive racial stereotypes, distorts the history of slavery and civil rights and wrongly portrays immigrants and Mexican-Americans as anti-American and dangerous.</p> <p>If this hugely flawed textbook is adopted, it would be a huge embarrassment and will make the board and our state seem intolerant and ignorant. Most importantly it will be a disservice to our children.</p> <p>In a state where the population is 39% Hispanic and growing (87% of that group are of Mexican origin), it is important that we factually share their history because it is OUR state's history.</p>
Public	Corazon de Tejas - REFORMA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	K-12th	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>As someone who graduated with a history degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a native Texan, a professional librarian (MLIS from UT-Austin), and a parent of two children in Texas schools, I believe the proposed textbook "Mexican American Culture" should not be approved for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is full of inaccuracies. For example, information about Latin American countries that are not Mexico, is presented as examples of Mexican culture. Another example is referring to "Francisco Madero" as "Franco Madero." These show academic carelessness and disinterest in accuracy. 2. The authors do not have the background to write a history of Mexican-American culture. When choosing materials, librarians ask: does the author have the education, knowledge and expertise to speak with authority on the topic? This text does not meet that measure because the authors Jaime Riddle and Valarie Angle are not credentialed experts in historical scholarship on ANY topic. 3. The text is not objective; it contains ideological opinions. For example, the text describes Mexican-Americans as people who "adopted a revolutionary narrative that opposed Western civilization and wanted to destroy this society." This sounds very much like conspiracy theories peddled by paranoid people that Mexican-Americans want to start a war and create a country called Aztlan, or some such nonsense. We need objective and balanced textbooks for our children, not books that serve as soap-boxing for those with political agendas. 4. The text is poorly written and unfocused. This text contains a mishmash of various topics related to United States history as a whole, with no connection to the Mexican-American theme. There is discussion of the US Civil War, Reconstruction, the French Revolution, the influence of the Soviet Union in Latin America, for example. What is the relevance of these kinds of topics to the supposed main idea of the text? None. <p>I respectfully request that you decline approving the text "Mexican American Culture" by Jaime Riddle and Valarie Angle. It is of poor quality and would do a disservice to our children. While I am pleased the State Board of Education approved curriculum about the history of Mexican-American culture in Texas and the United States, this proposed textbook is not the textbook to support that curriculum.</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Elementary/Secondary	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am asking you to oppose accepting the “Mexican American Heritage” text book. While it’s intuitive, research also supports the important relationships between self-identity/awareness, self-confidence, motivation, and academic performance. Growing-up, my 13 siblings and I encountered racism and inequities from individuals and educational institutions. None completed a high school education, while I managed to get a GED and went on to complete a graduate education.</p> <p>We grew to be good and hard-working citizens with families; nonetheless, the racially-based educational experiences had negative effects on most of us. Not having a good education had the impact you are well aware of; e.g., limited economic mobility and the weakened ability to build assets that can contribute to greater choices for our children’s future.</p> <p>The proposed Mexican American studies textbook contains an abundant number of errors and utterly biased content that raise ugly memories during our childhood and adolescent development. Lies about where we came from, who we are, our lack of contributions to society at all levels; indeed, the very undermining of our culture and its past or future potential contributions to improve our communities and society at-large. Still today, the tone by which demeaning words and biased statements where conveyed as truths across various teaching subjects are remembered.</p> <p>Scholars have made it clear that the proposed textbook is filled with outrageous factual error that are racially offensive, and distort history of Mexican Americans and other racial and ethnic groups. Scholars also find it reflects a stunning lack of overall expertise and scholarship given its unfocused narrative, discredited history on the Civil War and racism, and an obvious biased agenda on religion and politics.</p> <p>Certainly, today is a different time in Texas’s history and one can point to positive changes regarding racial and ethnic issues. However, we must be vigilant because there are those who would perpetuate racial and ethnic biases, social injustices, and intolerance through our children.</p> <p>Adopting this deeply flawed textbook would be an embarrassment and make the board as well as our state look intolerant and ignorant. More importantly, it will be counter-productive to socially confident and motivate children hungry to perform and achieve their academic best.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Texas has enough of a poor reputation for considering and adopting into use questionable school textbooks, and by association as one of the largest consumers of textbooks, forcing these poor choices onto schools across the nation. This book should not see the light of day in Texas schools let alone any others across the country. Below are some reasons why I believe this textbook is not suitable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholars with authoritative knowledge on this subject have clearly advised this textbook contains grievous errors and inaccuracies that demand the state board must reject it. • No textbook should be allowed to contain offensive racial stereotypes, create distortions regarding the history of slavery and civil rights, nor falsely portray immigrants and Mexican-Americans as anti-American and dangerous. These sections of this textbook are but a sample of it's offensive and inaccurate information and it is an affront to providing a FACTUAL and HONEST education. • As I have previously mentioned, Texas already has a poor reputation for selecting to use textbooks that are questionable. Adoption of this highly flawed effort to twist and rewrite history and inaccurately present the facts would strike another blow at the states reputation and is likely to influence and impact schools all across the nation. Don't bring further embarrassment nor the stain our state into appearing even less intolerant and ignorant than it already does.

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am writing to the Texas State Board Of Education to ask that you reject the textbook for Mexican American Studies that is being proposed. This book should not even be considered for the use of teaching children in a classroom setting. There are too many errors in the book that have already been found by several different scholars. When we send our children to school we are trust that they are receiving an accurate education of high standards. That everything that they are being taught will prepare them be successful in life. A book filled with so many factual errors can not fulfill these expectations that we have for our children's education. This textbook should be rejected because all it does is distort history by using offensive and false stereotypes of Mexicans.</p> <p>School is a place in which we discourage bullying and lying. Even in kindergarten, children are taught that part of the school rules are to be honest and kind. Why then, would we contradict this by building a curriculum around a book that does just the opposite of what we expect from them? This book is hateful against Mexicans and paints them in a negative way. Students are already exposed to hateful lies about Mexicans in the media and all this book would do is bring that hate into the classroom, a place which should be considered as a safe environment. In school we try to encourage students to become the best version of themselves that they can be. If students are being taught that their ancestors were "lazy" or "savages", then it will lead them to question their own identity as a Mexican-American student. In trying to make Mexicans appear as lazy, the creators of this textbook made themselves appear as lazy.</p> <p>This book is poorly made and does not teach factual accounts of actual Mexican American history. For this reason alone, it should not be used in our schools. It cannot be accurate if the experts in this field were not included in the making of it. This book would lower the educational standards of education in Texas. It sends the message that we don't care about providing an accurate education for our students. All this book would accomplish would be to spread bigoted lies and it is for this reason that I implore you to reject dishonesty and hate in schools by rejecting this book.</p>
Public	City of Houston, Director of Education	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Mexican American Studies	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Please allow this correspondence to serve as strong opposition to the Mexican American Heritage textbook. In 2014, when I served as President of the HISD's Board of Education, we unanimously passed a resolution in favor of Mexican-American Studies (MAS). During deliberation, I asked my colleagues to name at least five Mexican-American leaders in U.S. history. Everyone in the room struggled to create a list with just five persons. This happened in a room filled with very well educated community leaders and educators. My simple question demonstrated a significant point. It is not that Mexican American leaders do not exist. Rather, the history of Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and Hispanics is rarely taught in the classroom. We have a wonderful opportunity to incorporate MAS into our Texas classrooms, so every student can learn about our nation's rich, diverse history and understand the complexity of our society and the various perspectives and frames of references. Multicultural education raises awareness, positively affects students' attitudes, reduces prejudice, and has a positive impact on student achievement. Equity pedagogy assists students develop attitudes, values, and behaviors that support a freedom, justice, and democracy. There were great hopes that a quality MAS textbook would be developed to assist educators to produce equality, empowerment, and critical thinking skills for all Texas students. However, Momentum Instruction, LLC's Mexican American Heritage is a grossly disappointing, erroneous, prejudicial document that fails to educate and will cause great harm to children. This purported textbook describes Mexican-Americans as lazy and is prejudicial and malicious. There is no way to understand how any serious scholar or reputable educational publisher would allow such idiotic and insulting hogwash to appear in a textbook for our students. Students do not need a textbook replete with stereotypes that threaten and degrade and produce real, negative consequences in their lives. We need accurate and reliable instructional materials to promote learning and increased academic achievement. Given the harmful effects that stereotyping has in reducing academic performance, it is beyond comprehension to approve a textbook that endorses ethnic and racial prejudice. I urge you to reject this absurd document that claims to be a textbook and produce a real academic textbook authored by experts that the students of Texas so rightfully deserve.</p>

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Public	Responsible Ethnic Studies Textbook Coalition	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>The Responsible Ethnic Studies Textbook Coalition (masfortexas.org) strongly recommends the rejection of “Mexican American Heritage,” a book so plagued with factual errors and offensive statements that it has no place in any Texas classroom.</p> <p>We are not alone in that assessment. The Coalition has collected over 10,000 signatures calling for the book’s rejection. Also, the Coalition comprises over 30 organizations, including: the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies; Somos MAS (Mexican American Studies); Rio Grande Valley Coalition for MAS; Librotraficante; chambers of commerce; civil rights groups like MALDEF, NAACP, and LULAC; the Texas Freedom Network; and several student and educator groups. Although we have already submitted a long list of factual errors in the textbook, we note some of its more egregious here. The text often confuses Mexican Americans with immigrants, Mexicans with other Latin Americans and, rather than including a historically grounded discussion on the contributions of Mexican Americans, the book makes extensive use of stereotypes (e.g., Mexicans as lazy) and claims they are threats to American society. The book also whitewashes discussion about slavery, regurgitating discredited historical notions about “states’ rights,” as the root cause of the U.S. Civil War.</p> <p>The text mostly addresses U.S., Latin American, and world history and fails to connect the relevance of these broader fields to Mexican American history. Neither do the authors make use of the vast scholarly literature on MAS produced in the last forty years. Partly because of this, we find little or no mention of historically significant female figures (e.g., Sara Estela Ramirez, Josefina Fierro, Emma Tenayuca, Martha Cotera), key Mexican American organizations in education, workers’ rights, arts and literature, outstanding “patriots” such as recipients of the nation’s highest military medals, and significant authors (María Ruiz de Burton, Jose de la Luz Sáenz, Carlos Castañeda, Alonso Perales, Jovita González, Carmen Tafolla, Sandra Cisneros and Juan Felipe Herrera).</p> <p>The factual errors and omissions undermine the book’s ability to meet TEKS. The authors mostly fail to address the complex diversity of experience in Mexican American communities and miss opportunities to prepare students to become critical thinkers in preparation for college and life in a multifaceted global society.</p>
Public	The University of Texas at San Antonio	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Middle School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Review of Mexican American Heritage pp. 87-172</p> <p>Mexican American Heritage by Jaime Riddle and Valarie Angle presents a sensationalized version of the colonization of the Americas and the political, cultural, and military history of the United States. Further, the text subversively negates the importance of Mexican and indigenous people, culture, and government systems and pushes biased nationalist ideology that centers US exceptionalism.</p> <p>The text often glosses over the seriousness of Native American genocide in the US. In one sentence, for example, in reference to European occupation of America, the text reads “Some aspects of it were negative”(92); yet, the text supports Spain’s colonial effort stating, “As a result of outside knowledge Spanish missionaries brought with them, Indians became some of the best farmers, ranchers, and craftsmen in all of Mexico”(92). Furthermore, the authors celebrate Indian submissiveness to colonization: the text reads “while some Indians resented European-style learning, others pushed through and became the forerunners of the first Native American politicians in the nineteenth century”(93). And at the end of the section, the text blames “the inadequacies of Spanish rule,” in doing “little to progress their own people”(93), taking the opportunity to depict the US as more advanced than Indigenous, Spanish, and Mexican society.</p> <p>The text also describes Spanish territory as being in need of US intervention out of concern for Latin republics that recently acquired independence from Spain. The text reads: “When the United States noticed how much trouble Mexico and New Latin Republics were having getting on their feet, they were concerned that European powers would move in and take advantage.”(146) The text then gives a limited reading of the Monroe Doctrine that argues that the policy was designed to protect Latin America from outside invasion and exploitation. The text reads: “The United States took a protective stance and leadership role in the western hemisphere through the Monroe Doctrine, beginning in 1823”(146). Yet as Juan Gonzalez points out, the mandate was ignored by European nations: “Notwithstanding the Monroe Doctrine’s strong language, European government successfully pursued more than a dozen major interventions into Latin America during the rest of the century, and numerous minor ones with only occasional US opposition”(39). Gonzalez continues to not</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	9th - 12th	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>After having reviewed the book, "Mexican American Heritage," I feel that the following statements provided by the Responsible Ethnic Studies Coalition to be accurate. I too felt that the textbook was more like a U.S. History textbook with a spattering of Mexican American material written from the point of view of authors who are intent on embedding a conservative agenda in every subject that is taught in K-12 education. I also have serious problems with the process by which official review members are selected. Not only has a book been accepted that should not even qualify for review, I have serious questions about the qualifications of those who will be reviewing this text. I along with several other Mexican American Studies scholars applied to serve as reviewers for social studies textbooks and we were categorically denied. I therefore do not have any faith in this book selection process and believe it is severely disrespectful to the field of Ethnic and Cultural Studies, purposefully crowding out the participation of qualified Ethnic Studies faculty in any real decision-making processes. It is one thing to have "input" on a textbook that does not even qualify to be voted on, and another to have an actual vote when it comes to voting this textbook up or down. This textbook should be removed immediately, and the whole process of adoption needs to be seriously revised. 1) Stunning lack of expertise and scholarship: The authors appear to have no scholarly background or other expertise in Mexican American studies. 2) Biased narrative: In a textbook supposedly about "Mexican American heritage," large parts seem to be about other topics, e.g., the U.S. Civil War, Cold War. 3) Offensive racial stereotypes: Right after noting the offensive stereotype of Mexicans as "lazy," the authors reinforce that stereotype in a discussion of relations between workers and American industrialists in Mexico in the late 1800s (page 248). 4) Shockingly poor understanding of Texas and Mexican history. 5) Discredited history on the Civil War and racism: The textbook inaccurately argues that "states' rights" and the power of the national government, rather than slavery, were "the root" causes of the Civil War (page 210, page 357). 6) Agenda on religion and politics: The textbook provides a politicized and misleading history of the role of religion in the American founding (page 289). 7) Simplistic view of the Cold War: The authors ignore U.S. efforts at intervention in Latin America</p>
Public	The University of Texas at Austin	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Mexican American Studies saved my life. It provided me with an opportunity for self-affirmation through education that was not available to me before I sat in my first Mexican American Literature class as a college student. Prior to taking that class, most of my knowledge of Mexican Americans in the United States was limited to the what I knew of and from my own family history.</p> <p>As important as that history was and is, it did not give me the tools to combat the whitestream schooling I was subjected to as a student in American public and private schools. This form of education, what cultural studies and education scholar Dr. Luis Urrieta, Jr calls the primary form of cultural annihilation, threatened my ability to thrive in a local and national environment where Mexican Americans, and Mexican immigrants alike, are demonized and blamed for various problems afflicting the United States. Taking courses guided by the scholarship of Mexican American Studies experts armed me with the historical and cultural education I needed to reject the most destructive messages bombarding me from what seemed like all angles.</p> <p>I took my first Mexican American Studies course when I was 24. Texas public school students have the opportunity to experience what I did as teenagers giving them a jump start on the life-changing possibilities I had as an adult. This vision of Mexican American Studies, however, is in danger of becoming a sad and perverted nightmare where any student, regardless of their race or ethnicity, would leave their Special Topics in Social Studies course with a skewed version of not only Mexican American history and culture but American history and culture in general.</p> <p>I now have a MA in Mexican American Studies and working on a PhD from The University of Texas at Austin. As a scholar of both Mexican American and American cultural history, the ahistorical and stereotypical statements I found in this book are not only personally offensive, but offensive to me as a scholar and educator. The numerous and unignorable errors that I and others in the REST Coalition have detailed show this text to be wholly unsuitable for any classroom and especially for Mexican American Studies classrooms.</p> <p>We are already struggling to provide students with the education they deserve. We do not need to set our state behind even further by giving this travesty of a book the designation of being an "approved text". Please reject Mexican American Heritage.</p>

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Public	Houston Community Voices for Public Education	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	9th - 12th	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I agree with the following statements by Dr. John Mckiernan-Gonzalez and second his comments: "A Review of Chapter 5, Mexican American Heritage Dr. John Mckiernan-Gonzalez Department of History Texas State University Highlights 1. There are no Mexican Americans quoted in the chapter. 2. The only extended primary source quotes in the chapter on the U.S. are from Mark Twain (Roughing It, 1872), Alexis de Tocqueville (Democracy in America, 1848), and Abraham Lincoln (The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863). 3. The text does not mention any Mexican American women. 4. There are no women cited or quoted in the chapter. 5. The chapter on the U.S. features two Latinos: Antonio Coronel, a Californio landowner and gold miner, and Francisco Rosales, a Chilean gold miner who becomes a politician in Chile. 6. The chapter names three American Latinos, the two above and one whom may be imaginary, Francis Coronel. 7. The only peer-reviewed scholarship cited is a book published in China on Chinese laborers and the making of the railroad. It has little to do with the content of that particular section. 8. In a forty five page chapter, there are only two pages of content that relate directly to Mexican Americans. 9. The chapter on Mexico focuses on two presidents, Benito Juarez and Porfirio Diaz. The chapter mentions two other Mexicans by name in the chapter. 10. The chapter on Mexico spends 16 pages on the Spanish American war and Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson's foreign policy principles. Not sure how this is a diverging path. 11. Primary sourcing is suspect. The source for a Benito Juarez speech is 123helpme.com. 12. Given the general absence of Mexican American individuals and Mexican American religious, political, commercial, and cultural institutions in this chapter, it is difficult to understand what this has to do with 'Mexican American Heritage,' the title [and intended purpose] of the book."</p> <p>I do not agree with this statement from, "Mexican American Heritage" and find it to be false and misleading: Page 415 of the sample textbook states, "Chicanos, on the other hand, adopted a revolutionary narrative that opposed Western civilization and wanted to destroy this society."</p> <p>I also find this statement to be false: On page 454 of Mexican American Heritage, the book alleges immigrant neighborhoods are hotbeds for crime, exploitation, and hostile views toward America.</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies		Mexican-American Heritage	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I wanted to formally express my objection to the potential adoption of the proposed textbook to be used in Mexican American Studies programs offered in public high schools throughout Texas. As a U.S. citizen, Texas resident for nearly twenty years, private citizen of Hispanic descent, father of two daughters, and a working informational professional, I strongly object to the content displayed in Riddle and Angle's Mexican American Heritage. It is your responsibility as the approving body charged with ensuring that information taught to all youth in every class in a public school setting should be objective, authoritative, free from factual errors, and apolitical. None of which is true of Mexican American Heritage. To willfully expose Texas youth to the biased and erroneous information contained in this text, written by individuals lacking the proper credentials, is the intellectual equivalent of knowingly standing by and doing nothing as youth drink from a poisoned well. I certainly hope you agree that this would be an unconscionable act and vote to reject it's adoption.</p> <p>Most sincerely</p>
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Sirs:</p> <p>One of the many unique and special features of our great country is due process. Once a process for evaluation has been established, let the process work. I am writing today in support of the textbook Mexican American Heritage by Momentum Instruction, LLC continuing the due process for approval determined by the State of Texas. Through the transparency of the State's adoption process, Mexican American Heritage will prove itself worthy or not. It's is my assertion that the textbook will be determined to meet 100% of the TEKS, as well as, 100% of the student and teacher ELPS requirements. Furthermore, through proper vetting of Mexican American Heritage, no factual errors will be uncovered.</p> <p>Approving the Mexican American Heritage textbook will allow choice in our public school districts of a properly and publicly vetted textbook.</p> <p>With regards</p>

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Public	Mayor, City of Houston	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	9th - 12th	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>Dear Texas State Board of Education:</p> <p>I strongly oppose the adoption of the Momentum Instruction, LLC's "Mexican American Heritage" textbook currently under consideration as instructional material for the 2017 school year. I have read parts of the proposed textbook as well as reviews from experts in history and Mexican-American studies. In short, I find this textbook to be offensive. For instance, here is an excerpt from page 248:</p> <p>"Industrialists were very driven, competitive men who were always on the clock and continually concerned about efficiency. They were used to their workers putting in a full day's work, quietly and obediently, and respecting rules, authority, and property. In contrast, Mexican laborers were not reared to put in a full day's work so vigorously. There was a cultural attitude of 'mañana,' or 'tomorrow,' when it came to high-gear production."</p> <p>It is unbelievable that such a hateful stereotype appears in a textbook for Texas students. It reminds me of a 2015 board decision to use a world geography textbook that including the following, "The Atlantic Slave Trade between the 1500s and 1800s brought millions of workers from Africa to the southern United States to work on agricultural plantations." Politicized, prejudicial, erroneous textbooks must not be used as instructional materials for students.</p> <p>The purpose of instructional material is not to undermine our educational system, to push an ideological agenda or to disseminate inaccuracies, stereotypes and errors about our collective history. Instructional material must assist teachers in the education of our children. Quality education is essential in bringing our community together and allowing our children to develop socially, emotionally and intellectually. An endorsement of this text hurts our children by deteriorating the quality of education our children receive, fostering a culture of resentment and building on divisional ideologies rather than educational advancement.</p> <p>It is important for us to understand that Mexican-American culture is a vital and vibrant part of the United States' rich and diverse culture and history. Mexican-Americans and Hispanics have contributed to building our nation and collective identity as Americans; however, this essential part of our national history is rar</p>

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Source	Affiliation, if applicable	Publishing Company	Subject Area	Course/Grade Level	Program Title	General Comment
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	9th - 12th	Mexican-American Heritage	I am simply one who believes in public education for all public students in our state of TEXAS. I have had the opportunity to walk the halls of public schools as a student, teacher, administrator, and parent. I forward the same message to my students and parents that, my padre, my father would always give me, "Education is the road to a greater economic, social ,and political state for you and your family. Never underestimate the value of LA EDUCACION. " In 2011 our Texas State Board of Education adopted the SPECIAL TOPICS IN SOCIAL STUDIES course. This half credit high school course allows our public school districts to offer our students the opportunity to focus on a SPECIAL TOPIC. This elective allows interested public school students the opportunity to study Mexican-American history. This is a course that Mexican-Americans have been waiting for since 1848. Proclamation 2017 requested proposed textbooks for the SPECIAL TOPICS IN SOCIAL STUDIES course. State Review Panels were conducted in July of 2016 and I was surprised that there was only one proposed textbook for Special Topics in Social Studies, Mexican American Heritage. I had an opportunity to review the proposed Mexican American Heritage textbook and as I read each chapter I was extremely disappointed with statements that are simply false and far from the truth. The textbook title to begin with is misleading, even though the proposed textbook is titled, Mexican American Heritage, it spends six chapters on non-Mexican-American history and only 2 ½ chapters on Mexican American history. Those six chapters are really also SPECIAL TOPICS that merit developing courses on their own. But by hastily covering those topics the study of Mexican-American history is short-changed. Any public high school student willing to take this course will want to know the origin of the Mexican-American and the Mexican-American experience from 1848 to the present. Unfortunately the editors, authors, and contributors consistently fail to adequately address the economic, social, and political issues of the Mexican-American. The proposed Mexican American textbook also blames the failure of Mexican-Americans to climb the economic ladder in the United States in comparison to other minorities because of the following: 1) the conflicts between Mexico and the United States; 2) the complicated history between Mexican-Americans and Texas ; and 3) the role of Mexican immigration in the United States. These are all
Public	Librotraficante	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	High School	Mexican-American Heritage	I began to mark the individual errors that plague the textbook "Mexican American Heritage" published by Momentum Press book, but they are too many to list. Worse, the errors are based on a profound misunderstanding of the topic. This is so pronounced that the mistakes on each page are inaccurate at so many levels so as to further obfuscate any facts that might result, by mistake, in subsequent sentences, paragraphs, pages, then chapters. Thus, no amount of editing can fix this book. The book also lacks the basic qualities expected for academic scholarship. The authors of the book did not properly cite their sources. They also do not make their main point clear-therefore they can't support it. They also do not cite any experts in the field of Mexican American Studies. Students must never be given the impression that this textbook is the correct way to write a research paper at any level. These shortcomings are further hampered by some of the most racist and offensive comments I have ever seen in a book. No amount of revision can help this poorly thought out book. For example, beginning with the title on the front cover of the text and throughout the entire book to its end, the following terms are used incorrectly: Mexican American, Hispanic, Chicano, Latino, just to name a few. This book must not be allowed in Texas classrooms because it will severely set back the state's intellectual advancement. Furthermore, this book would teach a generation of students to discriminate against Latinos. Any students who had the misfortune of having to suffer through this textbook in a class would not be able to compete academically against students who had the benefit of studying from legitimate textbooks. That's if students who are taught from this book will even be admitted into college after being exposed to the amount of mis- information, poor scholarship, and racist thoughts propagated by this text.

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Mexican American Studies/ High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>On pages 172, 173, and 487, this textbook uses the term “Democrat Party.” On page 173, the term appears in the narrative; on pages 172, it is defined in a sidebar. On page 487, which is part of the glossary, the identical definition appears. The point is: There is no such political party by that name in the United States or in the state of Texas.</p> <p>The use of the term “Democrat Party” in this textbook is more than a simple error. It reveals the political bias of the authors of the textbook. “Democrat Party” is an epithet commonly used by right-wingers such as Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannnity when they talk about the Democratic Party.</p> <p>The use of the term “Democrat Party” in MEXICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE reflects shoddy scholarship and an extreme conservative point of view that should disqualify it as a textbook for use by the students of Texas.</p> <p>Here are a few examples of the way the right wing uses the term “Democrat Party” to disparage the Democratic Party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rampant Discord in the Democrat Party - The Rush Limbaugh Show www.rushlimbaugh.com › Archives (July 18, 2016) * In the July 28, 2016 online issue of The Blaze, there is an article entitled, “Wake up, Christians. There is No Place for You in the Democrat Party.” * A July 26, 2016 article by: Daniel Horowitz in “Conservative Review” is titled “This Ain’t Your Father’s Democrat Party.” * On Jul 26, 2016, Rush Limbaugh said: “The Democrat Party has done many destructive things on its way to acquiring power.” * On July 22, 2016, Rush Limbaugh said, “The Democrat Party is the party of slavery. Do you know the Republican Party was created to end slavery?” -----* An article in MRC NEWSBUSTERS By Noel Sheppard, May 1, 2007 carried the headline “Exposing and Combating Liberal Media Bias” and “Sean Hannity Exposes Democrat Party Held Hostage by Left-Wing Blogosphere.” * FiveThirtyEight.com reported on Mar 5, 2009 – a search on Google turned up 740 hits for “Democrat Party” on the Rush Limbaugh website.
Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Mexican American Studies/ High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I am respectfully submitting a review of the textbook entitled Mexican American Heritage. The textbook, currently being considered under Proclamation 2017 by the State Board of Education (SBOE), is an affront to an educated populace and should not be adopted. Not only factually inaccurate, the textbook is also comprised of substandard English usage heightened by poor diction and lack of clarity. Additionally, the textbook violates many tenets of good technical writing as the book lacks white space, accurate pagination, consistency, clear first, second and third level headings, insufficient knowledge of audience, delivery, and arrangement—elements necessary for a secondary teacher and his/her students. Mexican-American Heritage demonstrates the antithesis of what students should be learning in Texas classrooms. The textbook's lack of depth and perspective with the added disrespect for the English language merits strong disapproval and removal from consideration for adoption by the state of Texas. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for your review and thank you for your service to students in the state of Texas.</p> <p>*Reviewer’s Background: Dr. Saenz spent thirty years teaching English from the Secondary level to the University level in Texas schools and colleges. She also served for ten years as a College Dean and Vice President of Instruction/Chief Academic Officer in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Saenz is a 5th Generation Texan and a Mexican-American woman, with a PhD in English with a Concentration in Rhetoric (Texas Woman’s University). She has served on many boards, non-profits, and service organizations dedicated to students and educational priorities in Texas. Dr. Saenz is also the recipient of local, regional and national teaching awards including the Minnie Stevens Piper Nominee from North Lake College in Irving.</p> <p>Attachment: Review of Mexican-American Heritage (3 pages)</p>

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Public	NA	Momentum Instruction, LLC.	Social Studies	Mexican American Studies/ High School	Mexican-American Heritage	<p>I had an opportunity to review the proposed Mexican American Heritage textbook and as I read each chapter I was extremely disappointed with statements that are simply false and far from the truth. The textbook title to begin with is misleading, even though the proposed textbook is titled, Mexican American Heritage, it spends six chapters on non-Mexican-American history and only 2 ½ chapters on Mexican American history. Those six chapters are really also SPECIAL TOPICS that merit developing courses on their own. But by hastily covering those topics the study of Mexican-American history is short-changed. Any public high school student willing to take this course will want to know the origin of the Mexican-American and the Mexican-American experience from 1848 to the present. Unfortunately the editors, authors, and contributors consistently fail to adequately address the economic, social, and political issues of the Mexican-American. The proposed Mexican American textbook also blames the failure of Mexican-Americans to climb the economic ladder in the United States in comparison to other minorities because of the following: 1) the conflicts between Mexico and the United States; 2) the complicated history between Mexican-Americans and Texas ; and 3) the role of Mexican immigration in the United States. These are all false claims. 1) The editors, contributors, and authors have no background or degrees in Mexican-American history. All are graduates or employees of Liberty University. Liberty University is a private and Christian university founded by Dr. Jerry Falwell. Liberty University does not offer a Mexican American Studies Degree. One editor, author, or contributor is Cynthia Dunbar, a former Texas SBOE member from District 10 from 2007-2011. 2) The proposed textbook is divided into 9 chapters with ORIGINAL SOURCES and RED-DOTTED PASSAGES within each chapter. Out of 62 ORIGINAL SOURCES only 2 are related to Mexican-Americans. Out of 73 RED-DOTTED PASSAGES only 10 are related to Mexican-Americans. 3) The focus on Mexican-American history is detoured by chapters on: Chapter 1: The Indigenous Era; Chapter 2: Spanish Colonialism; Chapter 3: Age of Independence; Chapter 4: The Mexican-American War; Chapter 5: Two Paths Diverge; Chapter 6: 1910-1940: Revolution and World War; and Chapter 8: The Cold War Era. 4) The scope and sequence of the proposed Mexican American Heritage textbook is irregular and unsatisfactory.</p>