

BREAKING NEWS: Harvey upgraded to Category 3 hurricane, headed for Texas



 AdChoices

Arizona ban on ethnic studies unconstitutional, U.S. judge says



Reuters

By Taylor Harris
1 day ago

 SHARE

 SHARE

 TWEET

 SHARE

 EMAIL



© AP Photo/Matt York, File FILE - In this May 9, 2011 file photo, Carlos Galindo protests outside the Arizona Department of Education in Phoenix. A federal judge in Tucson, Ariz., in a finding made public...

Aug 23 (Reuters) - A federal judge has overturned an Arizona ban on ethnic studies courses aimed at Hispanic students, saying it was motivated by racial discrimination and violated pupils' constitutional rights.

AdChoices

Build Your Own - Harmony Sectional Pieces (Extra Deep)

[SEE MORE](#)

Sponsored by [WEST ELM](#)

The decision by Judge A. Wallace Tashima issued on Tuesday came in response to a lawsuit by students and parents challenging the law, which ended a Mexican American Studies, or MAS, program run by the Tucson school district.

"The Court is convinced that decisions regarding the MAS program were motivated by a desire to advance a political agenda by capitalizing on race-based fears," Tashima wrote in his ruling.

Officials with the Arizona Department of Education were not immediately available for comment.

A Tucson Unified School District member, Kristel Ann Foster, said she was "elated" to be able to restore the program to classrooms.

In 2006, Arizona's then-schools superintendent and former attorney general, Thomas Horne, began a probe into MAS after an incident when a labor activist told students that Republicans were racist. Horne concluded the program violated school code, and the state threatened to withhold funds until it was stopped.

Tashima, however, backed a study conducted in 2012 - the year the program was dropped from the syllabus in Tucson - which found MAS helped improve the graduation rates and test scores of some of the district's worst-performing students.

One of those, Alfred Chavez, 27, said he had been on the verge of dropping out in 2006 when he signed up for MAS at Tucson High School. He credits the classes with keeping him in school and propelling him toward a career in education.

"They didn't just appeal to the A+ student. They appealed to street kids, the marginalized population," said Chavez, who works as a program specialist at Mesa Community College near Phoenix. "It turned them on to education."

About 64 percent of Arizona's school students are Hispanic, according to state figures. The MAS program included units on Mexican-American history, art and literature.

The attorney for the parents and students who brought the lawsuit, Steve Reiss, described the ruling as an "extraordinary" win.

"To show that a state passed and implemented a law with discriminatory intent is extremely hard these days," Reiss said.

Horne said public schools should teach students from different backgrounds to treat each other as individuals.

"This decision promotes a program that does the opposite: divides students by race and promotes ethnic chauvinism," he said in a statement.

SPONSORED TOPICS

[Affordable Cable TV Packages](#)

[5 Most Expensive Cars](#)

[Best Antivirus Software of 2017](#)

MORE FOR YOU

By



The Most Dangerous Species Found On The Planet

HorizonTimes | Sponsored



Sandra Bullock's Adopted Son Looks Unrecognizable

Worldation | Sponsored



45 Year Old Woman Watches Her Muffin Top Vanish, Doing This

healthytrends.net | Sponsored



7 Reasons Why These Razors Get So Much Attention



Princess Diana Looks Incredible In These Rare Vacation Photos...

OK Magazine On MSN



Jim Brown Gives Us 'The Real Deal' On Colin Kaepernick...

ThePostGame.com On MSN



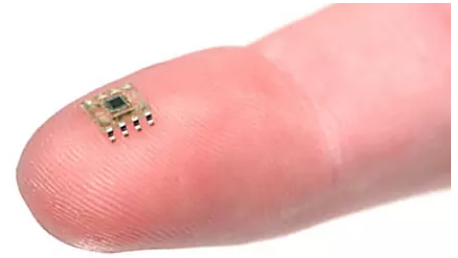
The End? The Reason Jim Carrey Is Basically Unhireable Today

Worldation | Sponsored



Farmer And His Wife Make History With An Ancient Find

Nocartridge | Sponsored



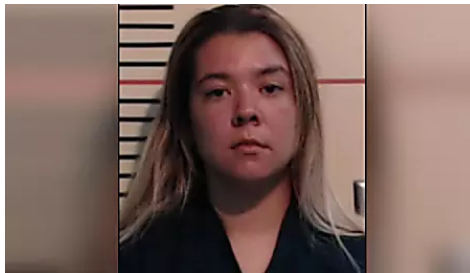
Tiny Device To Be In 50 Billion Products By 2020 ...

Banyan Hill Publishing | Sponsored



Man stabbed to death on NYC street in front of wife during fight

New York Daily News - LocalNewsRSS On MSN



Texas mom who left 2 toddlers in hot car 'to teach them a lesson...

FOX News On MSN



Aries: Your finance horoscope - August 25

Astrofame On MSN



Found After 73 Years Hidden Underground. But When They Look...

Direct Expose | Sponsored



Joel Osteen Reveals The True Reason He Is Leaving Everything...

Raspberry Comp Pi | Sponsored



This Is How Strong North Korea's Military Really Is

HistoryInOrbit.com | Sponsored



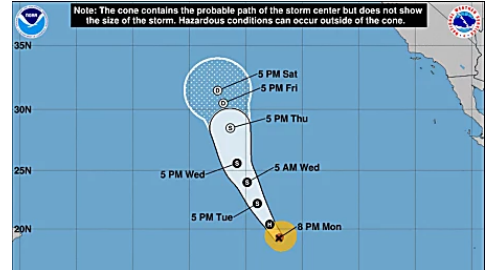
Trump voter: He is the world's biggest troll

CNN On MSN



Michelle Obama's Style After the White House

US Weekly On MSN



Hurricane Kenneth weakens to Category 2 off Mexican coast

Associated Press On MSN



The Most Important Map of America You Will Ever See (See...

Banyan Hill Publishing | Sponsored



The Future of Trucks. The New F-150 Has it All

Yahoo! Search | Sponsored



Police Are Warning People To Watch Out For Rubber Bands...

Scribol | Sponsored

< Go to MSN Home

< Go to MSN News