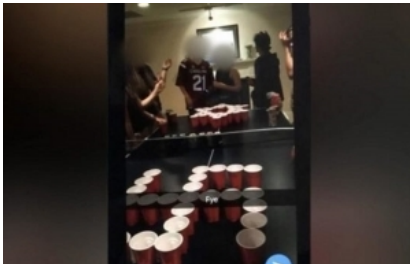


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Thursday, 24 august 2017

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

23:31 23 august 2017

Source: [Reuters](#)



© 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 Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017, ruled that an ethnic studies ban in Arizona that shuttered a popular Mexican-American program was enacted with racial discrimination. The 2010 law dismantled the Tucson Unified School District program, launching months of protests by students and parents who said it enriched school performance.

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.

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ADS

ACLU sues Nebraska Department of Corrections



Fulfilling a threat issued earlier this year, the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Nebraska and Nebraska Appleseed are filing a class action complaint in U.S. District Court, alleging overcrowding in Nebraska's Department of Corrections has created an unconstitutional, humanitarian crisis. The complaint names the Department of Corrections, Director Scott Frakes, Harbans Deol, the Director of Health

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.

Maryland judge reaffirms life sentences for D.C. sniper Malvo



Six life sentences for a man convicted in a deadly Washington area sniper spree when he was 17 have been allowed to stand after a Maryland judge found that he had not been given mandatory life terms, which the U.S. Supreme court has ruled unconstitutional for juveniles. Lee Boyd Malvo, now 32, was one of two men found guilty in the 2002 shootings that left 10 people dead and three others

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 the MAS curriculum at Tucson High School. He credits the classes with keeping him in school and propelling him toward a career in education.

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"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.

Speaking to Reuters before the ruling, Horne said he continued to believe such courses were racist and had no place in schools.

"They should learn about the contributions of all groups, not their own group," Horne said.

(Reporting by Taylor Harris in New York; Editing by Daniel Wallis and Peter Cooney)

White Christian conservatives should oppose protests by white supremacists



God is not a racist. Torch-wielding white nationalists and white supremacists marching through Charlottesville, Virginia, Friday night and rallying again Saturday failed to learn that important lesson. They shouted "unite the right" and "white lives matter" - and called for the South to split from the United States. The Friday evening march and the larger "Alt-Right" rally taking place Saturday came in

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TUCSON - An Arizona law that put an end to ethnic studies courses in Tucson schools has been largely upheld as constitutional by a federal judge, but supporters of the program say their Judge blocks NYC ban on large sugary drinks. Harvard faculty outraged after administration spies on emails.

[Arizona Unconstitutionally Banned Mexican-American Studies - www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)

PHOENIX — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that the state of Arizona violated students' rights by banning a It marks a major victory for educators and activists who viewed the ethnic studies law as a flatly "We won on all points," said Richard Martinez, one of six lawyers defending the students.

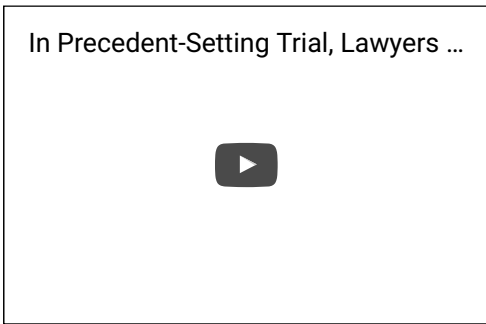
[Arizona 's Law Banning Mexican-American Studies Curriculum Is - www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)

03/11/2013 08:18 am ET | Updated Mar 14, 2013. Arizona ' s Law Banning Mexican-American Studies Curriculum Is Constitutional, Judge Rules. Tashima ruled that the section of the law prohibiting courses tailored to serve students of a particular ethnicity was unconstitutional .

[Judge Rules Arizona Ethnic Studies Ban is Unconstitutional - www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org)

In a victory for educators and ethnic studies advocates, a federal judge has ruled the state of Arizona violated In 2010, Arizona passed a controversial law banning the teaching of any class designed for a In response, far-right and white nationalist groups have canceled 67 upcoming rallies,

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In Precedent-Setting Trial, Lawyers Say Arizona's Ethnic Studies Ban is Discriminatory & Illegal

https://democracynow.org - We go to Arizona, where a hearing is underway that will decide whether a ban on ethnic studies which eliminated the ...



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