



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 30, 2015

## **CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE HONORS SIKH AMERICANS**

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

I am writing today to notify you of recent action by the Legislature calling attention to the important contributions made by Sikh Americans to the history of California. Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 37 recognizes November 2015 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

I encourage local educational agencies to observe California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month by conducting appropriate exercises to promote awareness of the contributions of Sikh Americans.

The Sikh population in California includes large communities in the agricultural towns of the Central Valley. Members of the Sikh community have testified to the State Board of Education that Sikhs have been targets of hate crimes and that young Sikhs have been subjected to bullying because of the different styles of clothing that they wear, with Sikh boys suffering at twice the national bullying rate than other boys.

Public Broadcasting Service station KVIE in Sacramento has made available a short video entitled "Sikhs in America." This video and supporting educational resources are available on the KVIE Viewfinder Web page at [http://www.kvie.org/programs/kvie/viewfinder/sikhs\\_in\\_america/default.htm](http://www.kvie.org/programs/kvie/viewfinder/sikhs_in_america/default.htm). I encourage you to make use of this site to inform students about the roles and contributions of Sikhs to the history of California and the rest of the United States.

ACR 37 recognizes and acknowledges "the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans." To view the full text of the resolution, please visit the California Legislative Publications Web page at [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab\\_0001-0050/acr\\_37\\_bill\\_20150520\\_enrolled.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/acr_37_bill_20150520_enrolled.pdf).

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jason Spencer, Principal Advisor to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, by phone at 916-319-0800 or by e-mail at [jaspencer@cde.ca.gov](mailto:jaspencer@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson

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