

Thomas Paine once said, “The greatest of tyrannies are always perpetrated in the name of the noblest causes.”

I come before you today to raise awareness and ask for you to be open minded as we consider a serious topic for our culture, education, and the Greenville community as a whole. It goes by many names on purpose to intentionally confuse and avoid criticism but it is commonly called Critical theory, critical race theory, neo-marxism, CRT, social justice, wokeness, anti-racism, cancel culture, SEL, DEI, or intersectionality among many others.

As Alexander Solzhenitsyn said, All Communist Parties, upon attaining power, have become completely merciless. But at the stage before they achieve power it is necessary to use disguises.”

On the surface critical theory looks to be all about accepting others as they are and seeking to end discrimination. I am sure the educators looking to implement SEL into our curriculum are well meaning and believe it will benefit children based on the surface level explanation that SEL advances. One of the common marxist tactics is to change the definition of words from their traditional meaning. You must understand that Marxists share your vocabulary but not your dictionary.

Let’s first start out with a [definition of critical theory](#): From Richard Delgado, and his book Critical Race Theory an Introduction from 2001

Unlike traditional civil rights, which embraces incrementalism and step-by-step progress, critical race theory questions the very foundations of the liberal order, including equality theory, legal reasoning, Enlightenment rationalism, and neutral principles of constitutional law. Although CRT began as a movement in the law, it has rapidly spread beyond that discipline. Today, many in the field of education consider themselves critical race theorists who use CRT’s ideas to understand issues of school discipline and hierarchy, tracking, controversies over curriculum and history, and IQ and achievement testing. Unlike some academic disciplines, critical race theory contains an activist dimension.

To summarize what we have learned about CRT from one of its leading authors. CRT looks to tear down liberalism, which western civilization is built upon, equality, the Constitution, and rationalism and it has an activist dimension. Critical theory does not seek to end segregation, racism, and discrimination, but yet recreate it in today’s society to make up for past historical discrimination. .

To quote one of the leading proponents of CRT today, Ibram X Kendi.

“The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.”

I believe critical theory, discrimination by race, and making racism the central lense of all thinking and education is evil and should be kept out of any teaching philosophy or praxis at GPS.

Some may say that SEL does not teach or indoctrinate students with critical theory marxism. Let's examine the CASEL website on SEL

In 2019, the concept of **Transformative SEL** was developed. In 2020, CASEL added information about Transformative SEL to its website, proclaiming it as their "updated definition of SEL".

So what is Transformative SEL and what does it teach? To understand this we are going to look at a journal linked on the CASEL website from Educational Psychologist published in June of 2019 entitled, Transformative (SEL): Toward SEL in Service of Educational Equity and Excellence.

“Mirra and Morrell (2011) drew a useful distinction between neoliberal and critical democracy and offered implications for education. Briefly, they argued that education aimed at promoting personally responsible citizenship and its attendant individualism, and consumerism with a dominant neoliberal democracy; this is the dominant model. However, a **critical** democracy requires education to have collectivism, productive interactionism, and authentic engagement as its goals. Accordingly, the field of SEL could aim to prepare students for not only engaged but also **critical** citizenship.”

We see here that SEL is pushing the collectivism of **critical Neo Marxism** over the individualism of neoliberalism.

“In contrast, transformative SEL is consistent with transformational resistance, as it features a system critique and is motivated by **distributive social justice**.”

Which is just marxism pushed by critical theory

“We agree that an integrated identity is a desirable developmental outcome among young people. Understanding the nature of healthy integration requires an **intersectional** approach. **Intersectionality** evolved out of Black feminism...”

Intersectionality is one of the core teachings of CRT

“Culturally responsive teaching also challenges racial and cultural stereotypes... . It encourages being **change agents** for **social justice**.”

In other words revolutionary marxists.

This is only a small sample of the evidence that clearly shows that SEL is indoctrinating and pushing critical theory marxism and its revolutionary worldview on our children. I ask this board to do further research on this topic and reject any sort of curriculum that is pushing this divisive, marxist, and racist ideology.

