



# Culturally Responsive Education & Critical Race Theory

## Editorial Guidance

**This document has not been updated since June 3, 2021.**

**Too long, don't have time to read? [Try this quickstart guide.](#)**

<https://futureforlearning.org/2021/06/03/truth-bridges-divides/> (Note: use this link for the messages for legs instead of the one page 3--that one does not work. (BF)

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### **Top 5 Messages:**

1. Trust students to talk about what's happening in the world around them.
2. Coordinated efforts to control curriculum come from powerful right-wing extremists who want to stop educators and districts from working toward racial equity.

3. When educators teach the truth, students start to see themselves as part of a bigger story.
4. Banning conversations about racism in schools is a form of censorship.
5. Facing “divisive concepts” head on is our tradition. Let teachers teach, and stop politicians from legislating away our right to the truth.

## Background:

When it comes to race and politics in education spaces, there have been varying levels of pushback over the years. Recently, these efforts have become more concerted, resulting in state level policy moves against Critical Race Theory (CRT) in curriculum and attacks on local districts and scapegoating of individual educators.

*“In September 2020, President Trump issued an executive order excluding from federal contracts any diversity and inclusion training interpreted as containing “Divisive Concepts,” “Race or Sex Stereotyping,” and “Race or Sex Scapegoating.” Among the content considered “divisive” is Critical Race Theory (CRT). In response, the African American Policy Forum, led by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, launched the #TruthBeTold campaign to expose the harm that the order poses. Reports indicate that over 300 diversity and inclusion trainings have been canceled as a result of the order. And over 120 civil rights organizations and allies signed a letter condemning the executive order...” [Janel George ABA article, Jan 2021](#)*

Conservative groups are making coordinated efforts against teaching CRT and false claims of indoctrination across the country. It seems that groups are attempting to leverage local school districts to show a [national trend of "indoctrination"](#), as seen in these [Daily Wire](#) and [Fox News](#) pieces. Further, policy change is being pushed in many states (see list below). Because the Partnership for the Future of Learning is doing narrative change work with attention to racial equity, culturally responsive curriculum, and meaningful learning, our network is positioned to provide guidance and activate partners in response.

## Strategy

This debate is part of a larger culture war and has potential to go in infinite directions. These are the parts we are focusing on in our guidance and work:

1. **Speak to these issues on our own terms.** Our goal is to share a strong narrative where we’re centering equity in education and Culturally Responsive Education without absorbing the misshapen logic of the attack on CRT (ie. moving a narrative on our own terms by focusing on the beauty of CRE while speaking to the anger and fear behind the attacks rather than trying to define and defend CRT itself).

2. **Support parents, school leaders, and legislators in understanding and action.** These are audiences that have immense power to shift what's happening on the ground and in states. Our communications efforts are in large part designed to provide clear information, compelling arguments, and repeatable messages. Because there are racial implications of these conversations on people already being harmed the most, our efforts will be tuned to support people of color in pushing back.
3. **Coordinate our efforts and align our messaging for full impact.** Attacking CRT is an attack on public education and equity in education. We will seek to amplify the work of partners, support partners connecting the dots between this and a range of other issues, as well as co-create and implement public-facing campaigns to shift the narrative.

### **What the Partnership is doing so far / has planned:**

- Active Shared Story working group
- PR firm outreach for investigative journalism and pitching (no real coverage by left or mainstream media) - [press statement](#)
- [4-page guidance for districts and legislators](#)
- *Editorial guidance (this doc) and reframing advice for network (similar to past editorial guidance, by Wednesday for review)*
- *Media Briefing/National press conference*
- *Support ZinnEd #TeachTheTruth campaign and Journey for Justice #EquityOrElse campaign*
- *DOE comments*
- *Get more orgs involved - Reaching out to the Associations of local education institutional folks (alphabet soup) — AASA, NAESP, NASSP, NSBA, etc on this*
- *Back to School Campaign / late summer with accessible templates and materials*

## **What is Culturally Responsive Education?**

Culturally Responsive Education (CRE) connects curriculum and teaching to students' experiences, perspectives, histories & cultures. It advances a student's academic achievement and sense of themselves as agents for change; and it helps students sustain their connection to their own language, culture and identity while also developing skills to succeed in the dominant culture. CRE is a method of rigorous, student-centered learning that cultivates critical thinking instead of just test-taking skills; relates academic study to contemporary issues and students' experiences; fosters positive academic, racial and cultural identities; develops students' ability to connect across cultures; empowers students and inspires them to fall in love with learning.

When students are fully seen, supported, and affirmed by their unique identities and experiences, they have the potential to go on and do great things. Creating such a learning environment - one that is just, equitable, and embraces the history and experiences of its learners, is not only good for students, but it is also good for our communities and our

shared future.

To achieve equity in our public schools requires Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, immigrant, LGBTQ2IAA+ students, and many other identities to see themselves reflected and respected in curriculum - in every class, every grade, every day.

Culturally Responsive Education is that vision realized.

CRE ensures:

- Schools are teaching curriculum that reflects the histories and backgrounds of students, in every course, starting in the earliest grades.
- Schools have a curriculum that is hands-on, experiential, connected with students' lives and identities, and include native and indigenous cultures
- Schools, pre-K to 12th grade, offer dual language programs or opportunities for students to learn more than one language, and recruit/train bilingual teachers to provide those classes
- Schools and classroom libraries reflect diverse cultures, languages, religions and stories
- Schools develop culturally responsive curriculum with teams of teachers in each subject and grade level, in collaboration with families, students and community elders
- Schools hold community forums to hear from parents, youth, teachers and school leaders about their vision and ideas for culturally responsive curriculum and teaching
- Schools create systems for monitoring and accountability to ensure that culturally responsive curriculum, professional development and instruction is of the highest quality and impacts student outcomes
- Schools mandate ongoing training and support for teachers and school leaders on the new curriculum, as well as on the diverse student populations that they teach, culturally responsive methods and restorative practices
- Research shows that students who see positive representations of themselves in their curriculum have improved educational outcomes. And for students of color as well as white students, CRE decreases dropout rates and suspensions, increases student participation, confidence, academic achievement and graduation rates.

Students deserve a rigorous education that embodies the diversity and represents the true greatness of who they are.

Students deserve Culturally Responsive Education.

## **What is Critical Race Theory?**

Also see [bit.ly/CRTbreakdown](https://bit.ly/CRTbreakdown) [Google Doc](#)

Critical Race Theory shows how racial inequity is baked into all of our social structures, and our social and political structures reproduce racism in ways that go far beyond interpersonal dynamics. Repairing a society that is divided by racism requires understanding of how the past relates to the present and how the structures that shape our lives affect people differently based on race.

Critical Race Theory (CRT) came to prominence in the 1970s-80s at a time when it became clear that advancements made through the Civil Rights movement were being challenged and, at times, reversed in both political and cultural arenas. CRT was first grounded in legal studies with the goal to understand how racial inequity has been codified into law, while understanding that “racism is a fundamental part of American society, not simply an aberration that can be easily corrected by law” ([MTSU](#)).

Now moving beyond the legal field, the same kind of questions can be applied to society, culture, the economy, politics, and other structures that surround us. Education is one such field, both where racism exists institutionally and also where CRT can be applied to curriculum in order for students to be equipped with a more accurate understanding of the past and present. There are many offshoots of CRT that are specific to different disciplines, and it exists largely in an academic setting.

Five major tenets of CRT include (paraphrased from this [article](#) and [linkedin post](#)):

1. Racism is ordinary, not a deviation from the plan of what a nation, society, and economy is designed to be.
2. Racism is a well-maintained part of the status quo because “common sense” beliefs created by the majority allow only as much racial justice/progress as will reinforce existing power and benefits.
3. Race has been constructed socially to the detriment of people of color
4. Storytelling and counter-storytelling have a powerful and persuasive ability to make it possible to unlearn beliefs that are commonly believed to be true.
5. White people have been recipients of civil rights legislation

*“CRT challenges us to see that racial injustice in America is not, and has never been, just a problem of isolated instances of individual bias and private prejudice which we can solve by enacting 'color-blind' laws and policies.” - Kendall Thomas in [Newsweek article](#)*

*On recent legislation to block 1619 and or CRT: “The larger purpose, it seems, is to rally the Republican base—to push back against the recent reexaminations of the role that slavery and segregation have played in American history and the attempts to redress those historical offenses. The shorthand for the Republicans’ bogeyman is an idea that has until now mostly lived in academia: critical race theory.” [Atlantic article](#)*

*“...the right has transformed a term that originally referred to an academic school of thought into a catchall for resentments over diversity initiatives and changing history curriculums.” - Michelle Goldberg, [NYT op ed](#)*

### **What do people really mean when they criticize CRT in schools today?**

- Making students “affirm, adopt or adhere to” belief systems that claim individuals of any race, sex, ethnicity, religion or national origin are responsible for past actions done by members of the same group ([Idaho](#))
- Belief systems that claim a group of people as defined by sex, race, ethnicity or religion are inferior or superior to others
- Mandatory diversity training
- Culturally Responsive Education
- Social justice and diversity and inclusion programs in schools
- Tying CRT also to [masks and vaccines](#)
- “race essentialism, collective guilt, and neo-segregation”
- Schools board members who support equity work by superintendents/districts (

### **What’s really behind the attacks on CRT?**

- Outdated information
- Conservatism/Far Right extremism
- Privatization
- White supremacy & fragility
- National Parents Union, Parents Defending Education
- Nicole Neily, Asra Nomani, Dinesh D'Souza, Steven Crowder, Erika Sanzi, [Chris Rufo](#)
- The “moderate” voices on this are [Frederick “Rick” Hess](#) and [Michael J. Petrilli](#) - they are for culturally affirming education but think anti-racist education is indoctrination
- Trumpism & [1776 Report](#) / 1776 Unites
- America-first, [Back to Basics](#), “foundational history,” “Love America Again” curriculum (see [Turning Point Academy](#))

### **Who’s funding the attacks?**

- This is hard to officially pin down since the main groups aren’t legally non-profits with 990s, but we know based on individuals involved that the following foundations are likely funding these efforts:
  - Far right foundations and institutes like [Koch](#), Heritage, and Fordham ([breadcrumbs](#))
  -

## **What’s Happening in State Policy?**

For more detailed list, see: [Tracking The Organized Attacks On Racial And Gender Justice](#), AAPF. Here’s an example of [model legislation](#).

**NOTE: A big goal is “to get the Supreme Court to rule that school and workplace trainings based on the doctrines of critical race theory violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act.” (NYT op ed)**

- Arkansas - [Arkansas governor allows bill targeting critical race theory in state agencies to become law](#)
- Idaho - [Idaho moves to ban critical race theory instruction in all public schools, including universities; Bill banning critical race theory in public schools becomes law](#)
- Louisiana - [Bill targeting critical race theory divides La. lawmakers](#)
- Maine- [Lawmakers debate bill aiming to prohibit teachers from engaging in political, religious, or ideological advocacy in class](#)
- Missouri - Bill [Prohibits the use of the 1619 Project initiative of the New York Times in the public schools of the state](#)
- New Hampshire - [NH's "Divisive Concepts" Bill](#)
- Oklahoma - [Bill restricting race theory teaching headed to Governor's desk despite objections from educators and others](#)
- Oregon-[Local School Board Elections e.g. Beaverton SBE candidate on Fox May 8th](#)
- Rhode Island - [Bill / Rhode Island Introduces Legislation To Ban Critical Race Theory, Other 'Divisive Concepts'](#)
- South Carolina - [SC lawmakers may use Trump's 1776 Report to shape US history curriculum](#)
- Tennessee - [Bill article](#)
- Texas - [Bill to Ban Critical Race Theory from Texas Classrooms Passes House Committee](#)
- Utah - [Utah parents, advocates weigh in on critical race theory education debate](#)
- Virginia
- Also [military](#) & lawsuits

## Statements and Policies from Partners and Adjacent Organizations

- AASA position statement on equity and diversity: (full set of beliefs and position statements [here](#)) [not current partners]
- National School Boards Assn guide (link [here](#)) “Reimagining School Board Leadership: Actions for Equity” (2021) – one of the publishers of the guide is NSBA’s Dismantling Institutional Racism in Education Initiative
- National Council for the Social Studies: [“Saving American History?” Start with Teaching American History.](#) (Feb. 2021) This is the national professional organization for K-12 social studies teachers.
- SPLC’S Learning For Justice Program [Responds To Backlash Against Educators Addressing Race In Schools](#)
- [A Lesson on Critical Race Theory](#), Janel George, ABA, Jan 2021.

## Frames and Messages

References: *FrameWorks Institute's* [Talking About Racial Equity in Education](#), [Making the Case for Equitable and Just Public Education](#), [Quickstart Guide to Changing the Narrative on Public Education](#),

[Models of Education Thinking, Communicating about History: Challenges, Opportunities, and Emerging Recommendations; We Make the Future Messaging Guide](#)

1. DO Advance a positive vision of educational opportunity that centers race. ([Example Recommendation](#))
2. DO lead with an aspirational appeal to shared values, not a stark negative evaluation of the status quo.
3. DO explain “how it happens” before talking about “who it happens to more often”.
4. DO frame the responsibility for the problem, and the benefits of solving it, as a shared concern.
5. DO invoke common values that apply to all at the top of a communications, and subsequently explain how these values are derailed by racial bias and inequity.
6. DO invoke the deeply embedded values of **Ingenuity and Interdependence** with respect to solving tough problems
7. DO remind people of our common belief that everyone deserves to be in an educational environment in which they can succeed and how failures in the system hurt everyone.
8. DO communicate in a practical tone that emphasizes our shared fate
9. DO remind people of how a shared understanding of the past can create a sense of community and of what we share as a society.
10. DONT focus on the triumphant individual or other mechanisms that exceptionalize
11. DONT focus on problems and disparities to the exclusion of solutions
12. DONT engage in a rhetorical debate around victims vs victors
13. DONT use edu-speak and policy jargon.

***“What’s the problem with teaching the story of everybody? It’s not about blaming someone, it’s about understanding each other.” - Abdi, HS student in Oregon***

Shift From	Shift To
Values of patriotism, colorblindness, race neutrality, American exceptionalism, “unity,” individualism, Capitalism, meritocracy	Interdependence, collective responsibility, diversity, empathy, belonging, curiosity, pragmatism, ingenuity  The idea of “colorblindness” makes it possible to believe that we are living in a meritocracy where anything is possible for anyone to achieve. In reality, people of color encounter hardships every day that white people do not. It is our collective responsibility to acknowledge, talk about, and change this reality so that every young person can reach their full potential.  Colorblindness is not a harmless idea that will automatically create unity - its real effect is to maintain

	<p>white dominance in society by refusing to acknowledge differences in power, forged in our history that still exists today.</p>
<p>Overarching anti-CRT stance <a href="#">as presented in this Heritage Foundation report</a> - "Critical race theory is a grave threat to the American way of life."</p>	<p>The fact that the United States is so diverse has always been a strength. There is no singular "American way of life." To make the most of that strength, we need to build stronger understanding about the many cultures present in the U.S. and beyond. Why would we want to deny young people access to the world around them?</p> <p>Teaching the truth is an open door to having a society that reflects values of interdependence, freedom, and collective responsibility. Insularity, willful ignorance, and hatred are not values we want our curricula to embody.</p> <p>Students need to learn the full picture of U.S. history, even when it doesn't live up to the values we believe in. The U.S. is both founded on ideals of liberty, freedom and equality, <i>and</i> has been built on slavery, exploitation, genocide, and exclusion. If we want our future to be different, we have to deal with the past openly and honestly.</p> <p>Students are ready for systems and institutions to change. Our state/district is long overdue to place race at the center of how we think about remodeling education, including the accuracy of our curriculum.</p>
<p>Centering White youth</p>	<p>Many people fear that if we don't focus on white history and culture that means we're focusing too much on non-white subject matter. Some people believe that takes away from white students, but in reality it opens up doors of curiosity and understanding for all students.</p> <p>It's ok to center different cultures at different times in our curricula, not to mention the connections and overlaps between cultures and races. Young people are capable of learning about different races, cultures, and histories in the classroom.</p> <p>Teaching about the cultures of a wide range of</p>

	<p>students isn't something to fear - it's hope and love in action.</p>
<p>Unity requires not talking about hard or "divisive" topics</p>	<p>To often, the idea of "unity" is used to force people to assimilate into a dominant culture or else be rejected. If we want to have more unity in the long term, we can't avoid topics that have divided us. We need to talk about them, learn from what hasn't worked, and train young people to build a better future.</p>
<p>Teaching about race and politics in schools is a form of indoctrination.</p>	<p>To demand that we not talk about race in school or to ignore the fact that there are disparities means preventing students from having access to information about issues that affect their daily lives.</p> <p>Our [state/district] is always working towards improving and adding curricula so students can appreciate the diversity of cultures and variety of historical contexts, as well as to distinguish elements of our shared humanity. (<a href="#">NCHE</a>)</p> <p>Unfortunately, it's been all too common for our books and curricula to whitewash the past, hide difficult truths, and even promote misinformation. (<a href="#">CARE blog</a>) We need to keep working to change that by increasing the access students have to culturally relevant and responsive information.</p> <p>Efforts to remove CRT or any discussion of race from schools is censorship and propaganda.</p> <p>Students need to learn about how power, race, and oppression intersect to be prepared to take on challenges now and in the future.</p> <p><i>("When students are denied the chance to see how power, race, oppression, and resistance played out in the past, they are left ill-prepared for the present and the future." - Maureen Costello, <a href="#">CARE blog</a>)</i></p> <p>In schools, we teach our students to ask curious questions rather than making assumptions. We ask them to really listen and hear before responding and reacting. We expect students to learn reading skills so they can discern factual information from media that is designed to activate a heightened response. We like for</p>

	<p>young people in our lives to give us the benefit of the doubt. If we expect these things from students, then adults can learn and employ those same skill sets.</p>
<p>CRT perpetuates racism by increasing division. (Also: Victims/Victors; Oppressors/Oppressed)</p>	<p>Our curricula must affirm the dignity, humanity, and histories of all people, not just one group.</p> <p>Critical Race Theory affirms that we cannot be race-neutral if we are ever going to address and account for the inequalities that students of color face.</p> <p>Youth of today are living in a complex world. They need to be equipped with an appreciation for multiple perspectives and cultures.</p> <p>Realistically, in our current society students need to have a working knowledge of concepts relating to race. The learning process involves reflection and examination of the past and present. That's how conversations work in classrooms, and teachers need to feel prepared. Banning these topics from conversation just won't work in real classrooms.</p> <p>People who are opposed to CRT in schools want curriculum to be "race neutral" and "back to basics." This won't work because our world is not basic or race neutral.</p> <p>Critical Race Theory isn't about whether people are "victors or victims" - The triumphs of individuals don't counterbalance the weight of historic and current disparities based on race.</p>
<p>CRT is <a href="#">Marxist / anti-Capitalist</a></p>	<p>Attacking the origins of CRT is part of a culture war that is playing out at a very large scale. It's the same culture war that encourages people to decry masks, vaccines, immigration, and a range of other social issues. This fear is being intentionally used to target and harass schools and teachers.</p>
<p>CRT reinforces the idea that people today are responsible for past harms / reduces students to identity groups</p>	<p>Many districts around the country have already incorporated culturally responsive curricula in classrooms. The result is that students of color are affirmed and validated by having their unique histories and experiences elevated among their teachers and peers.</p>

	<p><b>Metaphor:</b> Should a political party in [country] try to hide [historical trauma] in order to show their country is “great” and beyond reproach? How would you feel if they started passing legislation to ban [historical trauma] from being covered in curriculum? We teach the complexities and even painful parts of history to avoid repeating those parts and to build a better future.</p> <p><i>“Humility and courage drive dialogues among students and educators that expose the hidden and visible ways racism manifests in individuals and societies.” (<a href="#">CARE principles</a>)</i></p>
<p>CRT inflicts emotional and psychological harm / makes children feel bad about being white; turns white children into “bad guys”</p>	<p>Young people need skills and knowledge to navigate the world in which they live. We live in a world where racial injustice isn’t just historic - it’s ongoing. If we only care about the discomfort of White students, we can’t get to a place where every student can fully function in society and reach their full potential.</p> <p>Let’s make sure every student has equal opportunities to succeed in school and has access to accurate, comprehensive, and relevant curriculum.</p> <p>Students should have access to well-prepared educators who teach accurate and comprehensive curriculum that draws from the many cultures of students who are in the classroom.</p> <p>Research shows that students who see positive representations of themselves in their curriculum have improved educational outcomes. And for students of color as well as white students, CRE decreases dropout rates and suspensions, increases student participation, confidence, academic achievement and graduation rates.</p>
<p><a href="#">Who gets to decide what history is?</a></p>	<p>It’s important for students to have a grasp on how the past shapes the present in order for us to create a better future together.</p> <p>If teachers are only allowed to talk about why the U.S. is “great” without talking about its flaws, then we’re</p>

	<p>asking them to teach propaganda, not history. These efforts are attempting to prohibit the teaching of ideas they don't like - that's censorship.</p> <p><i>"Antiracist educators reject incomplete narratives that hide more than they reveal and they are adept at confronting hard histories in the classroom. The curriculum counters dominant narratives by including multiple perspectives and balances stories of oppression with those of agency, resistance, and perseverance. In antiracist schools, students uncover the roots of present-day injustice." (<a href="#">CARE principles</a>)</i></p> <p><i>"Facing our collective history and how it informs our attitudes and behaviors allows us to choose a world of equity and justice." (<a href="#">Facing History and Ourselves</a>)</i></p>
<p>Just because I do not want critical race theory taught in school does not mean I am a racist.</p>	<p>Racist incidents are happening all around the country - they can be interpersonal, but the bigger problem is in our institutions and systems. Students tell us that they want to talk about what's happening in the world around them. They need to make sense of it. Educators play a crucial role in opening the door to these conversations. (Also see <a href="#">CARE blog</a>)</p>
<p>CRT needs to be banned from schools as a preventative measure.</p> <p><i>*Note: This frame is in use and is why "CRT is not taught in our schools" will not be effective.</i></p>	<p>CRT is not an official part of the curriculum of most schools. However, if the actual issue is whether or not we should talk about racial equity in schools, the answer is yes. We need racial equity to be an important and central part of our curriculum, at all grade levels and not just in history classes. Efforts to do the reverse are, at best, ill-advised and not grounded in reality, and at worst, a form of White nationalist propaganda.</p>
<p>Parents need to turn in teachers and schools who are teaching CRT</p> <p><i>(examples: <a href="#">PDE Indoctrination Map</a> and <a href="#">CriticalRace.org database</a>)</i></p>	<p>If parents have an issue with how a class is being taught or how curriculum is being used in schools, it works best to have an honest conversation with the teacher, principal, superintendent, school board, and school community. A direct approach strengthens relationships, whereas reporting teachers on questionable websites that are trying to map what they deem as "bad behavior" is harmful to educators and our school communities. Be wary of these websites and organizations that have been seeking out reasons to attack teachers and local districts, right before school board elections in some cases. It's part of a coordinated scheme that is attempting to play politics</p>

	by scapegoating our teachers and schools.
"Divisive" Concepts	<p>Facing divisive topics head on is a long tradition in this country. The Declaration of Independence was divisive. The abolition of slavery was so divisive that there was a Civil War. Let teachers teach, and keep politicians from legislating away our right to the truth.</p> <p>"Civic bonds" are built around truth and conversation. Lies and misinformation are what will deepen the divide.</p>

### Additional Sample Messages

Update and edit to fit your audience and support your own communications efforts.

#### The myth of historical progress

Often when there are opportunities to reflect upon our past and use its lessons to foster healing, solidarity, and community, there is a common refrain among the Right. They argue that our country has come so far that to look back, to talk about the past is divisive. They claim that racial inequality no longer exists. They cite examples like the election of our first Black president, rather than statistics about income and education inequality that often falls along racial lines to support these claims. These arguments are fundamentally attempts to reassert power and control that the right feels that it loses when people develop a deeper, collective understanding of the origins and ongoing challenges of our country. The idea that the United States no longer has racial inequality and to discuss otherwise thwarts unity is the myth of historical progress.

While it is true that landmark legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Brown vs. The Board of Education, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and others held the country accountable to its values of equality and opportunity for all, it is also true that America was built by the labor of enslaved Africans on the stolen land of the indigenous. And because of that history of racial violence and oppression, and the subsequent bias it breeds, racial inequality is woven throughout our social systems and that does not change because we cease talking about it. To remedy that requires continuous reflection and redress. Learning about the past - the good and bad parts of it, who history has advantaged and disadvantaged - is necessary to meaningfully move forward and secure true social progress.

#### The case for culturally responsive education

As many Black educators and advocates note every February, Black history is American history. And the same goes for Indigenous history, Latinx history, and that of Asian Americans. They cannot be separated. But often, beyond acknowledgement of a few notable figures or designated months, our

students do not often learn these histories. That not only impacts students' learning but also harms their sense of self and the communities around them.

People of color have made indelible contributions to the United States to which they deserve credit for - from its existence to its economic success. Culturally responsive education enables that by encouraging a more expansive understanding of who we are as a country and how we got here. That is something that everyone benefits from. Research shows that Black and Brown kids do better in school when their teachers reflect them and their experiences, but also when the curriculum does so as well. Data also shows that White children benefit and grow by being exposed to more diverse stories and people. Culturally responsive education pushes us - as community members, students, educators, and parents - to consider the collective and honor the resilience, beauty, and contributions of all.

## Protocol for Rapid Response

**1. Initial Point of Contact:** [NAME] will serve as the primary point of contact for all media inquiries related to [TOPIC] and can be reached [when and how]. Please refer all requests received for media interviews or information to [name] who will trigger the next steps in the protocol.

**2. Connection and Consultation:** [Above name] will consult with [NAME/S] to determine whether a response is warranted and potential forms (interview, statement, etc). Given the collaborative nature of playbook development, any inquiry will be shared with the following people as an FYI:

Person	Role and Org	Best Phone and Email

**3. Routing:** Some inquiries received will be routed to the specific partner organizations most able to answer questions and/or benefit from the inquiry. Some inquiries may be fielded by selected and prepared Partnership Ambassadors (see next step).

**4. Spokespeople and ambassadors:** Based on the nature of the inquiry, the following people may be contacted for public-facing media in relation inquiry:

Person	Official Title(s)	Best Phone and Email	Notes

**5. Talking Points:** To support consistent messaging, the talking points will be offered based on the framing table above in this document. Here are some talking points added by partners.

- 1.

## Resource Recommendations

- [Educator Resources](#) from Facing History and Ourselves
- [OAH Statement on White House Conference on American History](#), 2020
- [The basics of CRT](#), LinkedInPost
- NYU Metro Center’s [CRE Hub](#)
- Learning for Justice (SPLC)
- [Center for Anti-Racist Education \(CARE\)](#) & [Is your U.S. History text racist?](#) From CARE
- [Facing History and Ourselves](#)

- [Multiculturalism, Race & Ethnicity in Classics Consortium \(MRECC\)](#)
- [The Post-Pandemic Pathway to Anti-Racist Education: Building a Coalition Across Progressive, Multicultural, Culturally Responsive, and Ethnic Studies Advocates](#), The Century Foundation (May 2021 report)
- [Messaging Guida](#) from ASO Communications

## News Articles

*Some may be oppositional, so exercise caution when sharing.*

- [As schools expand racial equity work, conservatives see a new threat in critical race theory](#), Washington Post, May 2021.
- [Explaining critical race theory and why it's causing a stir in schools across the country](#), KSDK, May 2021.
- [Why the Right Loves Public School Culture Wars](#), NYT, May 2021 and [The Campaign to Cancel Wokeness](#), NYT, Feb 2021.
- [Video of Mom Insisting She Isn't Racist for Opposing Racial Justice Lessons Viewed Over 500K Times](#), Newsweek, May 2021
- [Senate passes bill banning teaching of critical race theory in Idaho schools](#), Idaho News, April 2021.
- [Beaverton School Board candidate pans 'critical race theory'](#), Portland Tribune, April 2021.
- [School board race targeted by outside political organizations](#), Newberg Graphic, April 2021.
- [Oppositional] [Dallas-area critical race theory opponents win big in school board election](#), Fox News, May 2021.
- [Nikole Hannah-Jones Responds To Republican Efforts To Censor 1619 Project](#), HuffPost, May 2021.
- [The Game Is Changing for Historians of Black America](#), The Atlantic, May 2021.
- [COLUMN: Black and Brown boys don't need to learn 'grit,' they need schools to stop being racist](#), Andre Perry
- [My Turn: Follow the right-wing money](#), Concord Monitor, May 2021
- [Opposition] [Oregon Education Department sponsors teacher event with controversial 1619 Project founder](#), Fox News, May 2021
- [In an Attempt to Prove Why Critical Race Theory Shouldn't Be Taught in Schools, Tennessee Lawmaker Falsely Claims Three-Fifths Compromise Was to End Slavery](#), The Root, May 2021.
- [Group Seeks Civil Rights Probes Into Schools That Pledge to Address Systemic Racism](#), EdWeek, May 2021.
- [What Is Critical Race Theory, and Why Is It Under Attack?](#), EdWeek, May 2021.
- [The GOP's 'Critical Race Theory' Obsession](#), The Atlantic, May 2021.
- [Educators, Public Education Is Political. Now What Are You Going to Do About It?](#), EdSurge, May 2021.
- [Texas educators worry bill limiting the teaching of current events and historic racism would "whitewash history"](#), May 2021.

## Social Media Content

#TeachTheTruth (*ZinnEdProject*)

#EquityOrElse (*Journey For Justice*)

#TruthBeTold (*African American Policy Forum*)

#CriticalRaceTheory #CRT

## Tweets

- Trust students to talk about what's happening in the world around them. Educators want to #TeachTheTruth. Learn more from @ZinnEdProject:  
<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth>
- Coordinated efforts to control curriculum come from powerful right-wing extremists who want to stop educators and districts from working toward racial equity. Here's what's really going on: <https://www.alternet.org/2021/05/schools-critical-race-theory/> #TeachTheTruth
- When educators #TeachTheTruth, students start to see themselves as part of a bigger story. Here's what race conversations in the classroom really look like:  
<https://crehub.org/stories#page-5beb4d52c2241b6fba334f6c>
- Banning conversations about racism in schools is a form of censorship. Let educators do their job: <https://crehub.org/stories#page-5beb4d52c2241b6fba334f6c> #TeachTheTruth
- Facing "divisive concepts" head on is our tradition. We're all here on Facebook doing just that. Educators want to #TeachTheTruth.  
<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth> #CRT
- Let teachers teach, and stop politicians from legislating away our right to the truth. Here's what's happening in state policy: <https://www.aapf.org/truthbetold-media>
- We support educators and their pledge to #TeachTheTruth! @ZinnEdProject  
<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth> #CRT
- What does racist, inaccurate history actually look like? Use this resource from @antiracist\_ed: [https://antiracistfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/care\\_2021\\_five\\_topics\\_FINAL\\_updated\\_icons.pdf](https://antiracistfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/care_2021_five_topics_FINAL_updated_icons.pdf) #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- What does antiracist education actually look like? We recommend the film series called "Culturally Responsive Education Stories" from @metronyu @mediasutrainc @future4learning. <https://crehub.org/stories> #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Ready for some truth-telling? Here's the truth behind the attacks on #CriticalRaceTheory: <https://www.alternet.org/amp/schools-critical-race-theory-2653140474> #TeachTheTruth
- "[Critics] have, in recent weeks, irresponsibly clumped together anti-racist teaching, critical race theory, ethnic studies, and anything else involving the systematic study of race and racism..." @jarvisgivens @theatlantic  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/05/whats-missing-from-the-discourse-about-anti-racist-teaching/618947/> #TeachTheTruth #CRT

- .@NCSSnetwork - the largest professional association in the country devoted solely to social studies education - has rejected the recent development of proposed bills in state legislatures in this statement:  
<https://www.socialstudies.org/current-events-response/saving-american-history-start-teaching-american-history> #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Find the latest policy updates re: ongoing attacks on racial equity, social justice frameworks, and critical studies across the US via @AAPolicyForum:  
<https://www.aapf.org/truthbetold-media> #TruthBeTold #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Keep track of what's happening in states around anti-#CriticalRaceTheory and "devisive concepts" policies: <https://www.aapf.org/truthbetold-media>
- When it comes to race and politics in education spaces, there have been varying levels of advancement and pushback over the years. Most recently, pushback is coming in the form of political and cultural attacks against #CriticalRaceTheory in schools.
- The current rampage against #CRT is directing malice at individual educators and local districts by politically-funded astroturf groups. Find out what's happening: [link of choice - see [news articles section](#)] #TeachTheTruth
- What is the end goal behind the anti-CRT efforts? Those involved want "to get the Supreme Court to rule that school and workplace trainings based on the doctrines of critical race theory violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act." [link of choice - see [news articles section](#)] #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- If teachers are only allowed to talk about why the U.S. is "great" without talking about its flaws, then we're asking them to teach propaganda, not history.  
<https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth> #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Culturally responsive education inspires every student to fall in love with learning by connecting curriculum and teaching to students' experiences, perspectives, histories & cultures. Learn more: [link of choice - see [resource recommendations](#)] #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Culturally affirming pedagogy advances a student's academic achievement and helps students sustain their connection to their own language, culture and identity while also developing skills to succeed in a society that does not often reflect them. [link of choice] #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Culturally responsive education is a method of rigorous, student-centered learning that cultivates critical thinking instead of just test-taking skills. [link of choice]#TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Culturally affirming pedagogy relates academic study to contemporary issues and students' experiences while fostering understanding across racial and cultural identities by developing students' ability to connect across cultures. [link of choice] #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- When students are fully seen, supported, and affirmed by their unique identities and experiences, they have the potential to go on and do great things. [link of choice] #TeachTheTruth #CRT

- Creating a just & equitable learning environment that embraces the history and experiences of its learners is not only good for students, it's also good for our communities and our shared future. [link of choice] #TeachTheTruth #CRT
- Stories are powerful points of entry for new ideas and ways of being. Get to know more about Culturally Responsive Education through the stories of people who have shaped and been shaped by it. <https://crehub.org/stories>

## Easy Retweets

- [CRT breakdown](#)
- [ZinnEd #TeachTheTruth](#) (use June 12 and prior)
- [Jennifer Berkshire thread re: Texas](#)
- [Jeff Bryant Article](#)
- [The Century Foundation report on anti-racist education](#)
- [CARE Anti-Racist education web series](#)

## Facebook Posts

- Trust students to talk about what's happening in the world around them. Educators want to teach the truth. Learn more from Zinn Ed Project: <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/pledge-to-teach-truth>
- Coordinated efforts to control curriculum come from powerful right-wing extremists who want to stop educators and districts from working toward racial equity. Here's what's really going on: <https://www.alternet.org/2021/05/schools-critical-race-theory/>
- When educators teach the truth, students start to see themselves as part of a bigger story. Here's what race conversations in the classroom really look like: <https://crehub.org/stories#page-5beb4d52c2241b6fba334f6c>
- Banning conversations about racism in schools is a form of censorship. Let educators do their job: <https://crehub.org/stories#page-5beb4d52c2241b6fba334f6c>
- Facing "divisive concepts" head on is our tradition. We're all here on Facebook doing just that.
- Let teachers teach, and stop politicians from legislating away our right to the truth. Here's what's happening in state policy: <https://www.aapf.org/truthbetold-media>
- Want to see what anti-racist education really looks like? WATCH the film series called "Culturally Responsive Education Stories" from NYU Metro Center, Media Sutra, and the Partnership for the Future of Learning. <https://crehub.org/stories>
- Ready for some truth-telling? Here's the truth behind the right-wing attacks on critical race theory: <https://www.alternet.org/amp/schools-critical-race-theory-2653140474>
- "[Critics] have, in recent weeks, irresponsibly clumped together anti-racist teaching, critical race theory, ethnic studies, and anything else involving the systematic study of race and

racism, painting them as one heap of race-talk mumbo jumbo.” - Jarvis R. Givens in The Atlantic:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/05/whats-missing-from-the-discourse-about-anti-racist-teaching/618947/>

- National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the largest professional association in the country devoted solely to social studies education, has rejected the recent development of proposed bills in state legislatures in this statement:  
<https://www.socialstudies.org/current-events-response/saving-american-history-start-teaching-american-history>
- “Anti-bias and anti-racist pedagogy are about truth-telling to ensure our country does not repeat or perpetuate the mistakes of our past.” - Jalaya Liles Dunn, Learn For Justice  
<https://www.splcenter.org/presscenter/splcs-learning-justice-program-responds-backlash-against-educators-addressing-race>
- Keep track of what’s happening in states around anti-Critical Race Theory and “devisive concepts” policies: <https://www.aapf.org/truthbetold-media>
- When it comes to race and politics in education spaces, there have been varying levels of advancement and pushback over the years. Most recently, pushback is coming in the form of political and cultural attacks against “Critical Race Theory” in schools. While the current rampage is part of a larger, concerted effort to suppress racial equity in society and government at large, the intensity and malice being directed at individual educators and local districts by politically-funded astroturf groups claiming to represent parents is intensifying. Find out what’s happening: [link of choice - see [news articles section](#)]
- What is the end goal behind the anti-CRT efforts? Those involved want “to get the Supreme Court to rule that school and workplace trainings based on the doctrines of critical race theory violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act.” This clash is also playing out at a local level. [link of choice - see [news articles section](#)]
- The thinly veiled attempt to quash racial equity in schools is directly and deeply tied to politicians, corporations, foundations, and individuals with a very clear set of motives: They want private schools to replace public schools. They want to criminalize knowledge about the experiences and histories of people and communities of color. They want to deny transgender students their rights. And they would rather not talk about the disparate disciplinary practices against Black and Brown students or the impact racist curriculum has on those same students. Get updated: [link of choice - see [news articles section](#)]
- Culturally responsive education inspires every student to fall in love with learning by connecting curriculum and teaching to students’ experiences, perspectives, histories & cultures. Learn more: [link of choice - see [resource recommendations](#)]
- Culturally affirming pedagogy advances a student's academic achievement and helps students sustain their connection to their own language, culture and identity while also developing skills to succeed in a society that does not often reflect them. [link of choice - see [resource recommendations](#)]

- Culturally responsive education is a method of rigorous, student-centered learning that cultivates critical thinking instead of just test-taking skills. Further, it relates academic study to contemporary issues and students' experiences while fostering understanding across racial and cultural identities by developing students' ability to connect across cultures. [link of choice - see [resource recommendations](#)]
- When students are fully seen, supported, and affirmed by their unique identities and experiences, they have the potential to go on and do great things. Creating such a learning environment - one that is just, equitable, and embraces the history and experiences of its learners, is not only good for students, but it is also good for our communities and our shared future. [link of choice - see [resource recommendations](#)]
- Stories are powerful points of entry for new ideas and ways of being. Get to know more about Culturally Responsive Education through the stories of people who have shaped and been shaped by it. <https://crehub.org/stories>

## Story Shares: CRE Stories

Stories are powerful points of entry for new ideas and ways of being. Get to know more about Culturally Responsive Education through the stories of people who have shaped and been shaped by it. <https://crehub.org/stories>

The CRE documentary series by award-winning filmmaker Manauvaskar Kublall examines what it would take to establish a positive school culture that respects and honors youth of all races, cultures and abilities and values families and communities as assets and experts to help build the capacity of school staff to engage cultures effectively.

Across nine episodes, we meet parents, teachers, principals and students who share their experiences of racism and bias in public school systems, and why culturally responsive education is an effective strategy to combat those forces. Our shared future must include school cultures and climates where children see themselves reflected and respected in their curriculum—in every class, every grade, every day.

## Partnership Boilerplate

The Partnership for the Future of Learning is a network of 300 organizations and 20 foundations that protects, strengthens, and advances education equity and meaningful learning—and supports the policies and practices that get us there.