

NO LEFT TURN in Education

PETITION TO STOP CRITICAL RACE THEORY & SOCIAL JUSTICE TEACHING IN VA BEACH SCHOOLS AND THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Virginia Beach School District (VBSD) is committed to the mission of empowering every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen.” The VBSD vision is that every student achieves “at his or her maximum potential in an engaging, inspiring and challenging learning environment.”

In September 2020, however, the Virginia Beach School Board adopted a policy that requires “Culturally Responsive” (CR) training for all staff ([Teacher training video](#)) and School Board as well as curriculum and assessments for students [Gifted Resource lessons](#). These training and curriculum, which will be implemented in K-12, are being developed without the involvement and knowledge of the public, including parents. The CR policy is based on a false premise of systemic racism. Systemic racism is defined as practices that have been purposefully instituted to benefit one segment of society at the expense of other. Throughout the United States in recent years, schools have incorporated CR training and curricula to combat the invalid notion that our present-day society is rife with systemic racism. These curricula, which have many names (cultural proficiency, cultural competency, social justice) are intended to address a fictitious societal ill and make students the standard bearers of racial progress in our nation.

CR is grounded in Critical Race Theory (CRT) and whiteness studies, which is a baseless, racist, discriminatory and divisive concept. It assigns characteristics to people based on the color of their skin whereby all white people are oppressors and privileged and people of color are oppressed, victims and bear no responsibility for their actions. CR and CRT have become all- pervasive in our nation’s schools, incorporated into history, literature, social studies, and even math and science classes. While students’ performance in math and reading of all demographics across the nation has been dropping (2019 National Assessment of Education Progress) schools are reallocating teaching time and resources to CR lessons.

Experience has borne out that CR has not heralded an era of racial sensitivity and harmony, but instead produced just the opposite. These lessons are dehumanizing and prevent authentic relationships among students of different demographics. It teaches children to judge others not by their character but by their skin color – a complete reversal of the lesson of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. which has been a moral foundation in education for over 50 years.

There has been an increasing reporting by students, parents and educators from across the country of the harmful effects of CR. Students describe feeling ashamed, vulnerable, helpless, traumatized and bullied. Many parents have begun homeschooling their children or transferred them to private schools which do not implement CR.

To date, NO evidence has been presented that demonstrated that VBSD has purposefully or unintentionally practiced systemic racism. In the absence of such discriminatory policies and practice, and in the face of mounting evidence of its harm, there are no basis for implementing CR and no valid purpose or goals to be achieved. Furthermore, although there has been a widespread adoption of CR throughout the US, no one has

demonstrated the validity and effectiveness of CR training and teaching, nor proven the outcome of CR training and teaching has been anything but deleterious to students, families, educators and the community.

Nonetheless, these concepts have already sprouted in VBSD in classes [he teaches the 1619 project](#), and [opinion article on the CNN](#), among teachers [“Capitalism is Racism”](#), and administrators [Assistant Principal on twitter](#), and in school directories [Racism is a Public Health Crisis](#). They are even incorporating anti-policy teaching - [Va Beach Schools](#) and [VDOE promoting](#) “abolitionist teaching.”

Taxpayers’ dollars, time and resources would be more wisely spent improving the core competencies of our students rather than indoctrinating and politicizing them into “social justice warriors.”

Therefore, we the undersigned implore the VBSD to abolish the [Equity Policy](#) and refrain from:

- 1) implementing CR training to teachers;
- 2) Incorporating CR into the core curricula;
- 3) introducing CR related resources into the classroom;
- 4) implementing CR instruction; or
- 5) creating ANY staff positions to implement CR or office for the purpose of implementing CR.