

PARENT ACTIVIST TRAINING

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR FAMILY'S RIGHTS





Parent Bootcamp

WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

Critical Race Theory (CRT) mandates that others be judged by :

- skin color
- gender
- religion
- socio-economic status

CRT teaches that skin color should impact all of American life.

COMMON CRT TERMS:

- White supremacy
- Systemic racism
- Privilege
- Oppressor

CRT leans on dividing Americans, scapegoating whites, Asians, Jews, and males, denigrating minorities, and separating children from parents to destroy the American way of life.

CRT CURRICULUMS:

- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- 1619 Project
- "Equity"
- Anti-Racist
- SEL

GOOD TO KNOW:

- **CRT INFORMED BY A MARXIST WORLDVIEW:** sees society through the lens of collective social struggle.
- **CRT IS IDENTITY POLITICS:** according to CRT thinking, if you identify as LGBT then you experience a higher level of oppression—and your oppression levels escalate in increasing amounts according to the number of categories you identify with that are viewed as being oppressed.



THE 5 TENETS OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY



CRT SEEKS TO DIVIDE BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE

Making divisions by gender, race, sexuality and other differences allows for chaos and the opportunity for a complete change in thinking and ideology



Scapegoat

CRT pushes a collective punishment ideology that claims entire groups should pay for the misdeeds of a few



Harm the Nation

CRT pushes the narrative that children should be ashamed of their country and that the United States is inherently evil



Harm Minority Children

CRT instills in minority children that they are somehow less-than and unable to achieve

Break Down the Family

CRT works to remove the parents from their protective role over children, separating families and making it impossible for parents to have control over their children's education



Know Your Rights

Discrimination- In no uncertain terms, discrimination is illegal as stated in the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees equal treatment to all, including public school students. You have the right to demand the education you believe your child needs. If you think your child is unfairly on a "slow track" and is being excluded from college preparatory classes due to racial or class stereotypes, you can challenge this placement. Girls also have the right to receive equal athletic opportunities.

Anti-Bullying - At present, no federal law directly addresses bullying. In some cases, bullying overlaps with discriminatory harassment which is covered under federal civil rights laws enforced by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). No matter what label is used (e.g., bullying, hazing, teasing), schools are obligated by these laws to address conduct that is:

- Severe, pervasive or persistent
- Creates a hostile environment at school. That is, it is sufficiently serious that it interferes with or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school
- Based on a student's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion*

Freedom of Speech - The U.S. public school system is secular (non-religious) and state laws forbid public education funds to be spent on religion. However, freedom of speech and religion are protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. If it isn't distracting to other students, your children have the right to pray when they are at school, the right to take religious books to school, the right to wear clothes signifying their religious beliefs (including a yarmulke and a crucifix), the right to talk about their faith at school, the right to organize a religious club, the right to refer to their religious beliefs in student assignments, and the right to miss school in observance of religious holidays. Conversely, it is illegal for a public school to proselytize or impose religious beliefs on your child or promote one religion as superior to another, or religion in general as superior to secular beliefs. Discussion of world religions must be "neutral". If a school promotes or demeans a religion, parents can complain to the school district, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and the ACLU. "A Minute of Silence" is often encouraged, although some states disregard the First Amendment entirely and go ahead and say prayers in class.

Right to family participation - Parents have the legal right, via the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 1974), to inspect their child's educational records at the school, to have them explained if necessary, to request updates and corrections, and to have their child's education records sent to another school in a timely manner if they wish to have their child transfer schools. The Every Student Succeeds Act guarantees parent-teacher conferences, reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate and observe their child's classroom, the right to ask for qualifications of a child's teachers, and many other prerogatives.

Opting out of Sex Ed - In North Carolina, you have the right to withdraw your child from any Reproductive Health and Safety Education lesson or all lessons. Most school systems will provide you with an opt-out form either at the beginning of the school year or prior to classes beginning.



Magnify

- Where did material come from?
- Who is responsible?
- Get screenshots, copies, etc.
- Is it illegal? Unethical? Frustrates educational purpose?

Multiply

- Email, call, or write 5 "friendly " sources

Meet

- Request meeting with teacher & principal
- Use assertive techniques used tonight
- If needed, prepare to record the meeting on your phone
- Follow up with your "friendly 5"
- Follow up email to principal & teacher

Mobilize

- Reach out to parent support groups like Education First Alliance
- Email Superintendent Cathy Moore (copy principal, teacher, School board rep)
- Email PTA members
- Email all class parents
- Post about the event on school ranking websites like Niche, Great Schools, Google
- Write letter to your state reps, copy principal, teacher, superintendent

Monitor

- Review online lesson plans including reading lists
- Ask to review textbooks in person
- Ask for lesson plans in advance
- Review child's assignments

Assertive Communication

Assertiveness is a manner of communicating and a relational style used by individuals to express their needs confidently, openly, and in a positive manner. Acting assertively is an interpersonal skill that helps people to maintain healthy relationships, resolve interpersonal conflict, and prevent one's needs from being stifled or repressed.



Your Goal: Change the behavior & the situation

RESEARCH: Define the issue: legal, ethical, educational purpose

MEETING: Can you tell me?
Will you explain?

"I" statements
Repeated Assertions

THE CLOSE: How can I get my needs met?

Here are a few examples of assertive communication:

"I understand what you're saying but I disagree"

"I feel frustrated when my child comes home to complain about being mistreated by her teacher. I don't like having to schedule meetings like the one we're in now."

"Could you explain the reasoning behind your decision, so I can try to understand what you're doing?"

"I understand that you feel strongly about teaching Black Lives Matter lessons in class and I need to ensure my child learns math in a harassment-free environment while in school. So what about switching her into another classroom?"

"I want you to help me with ensuring my child's safety while she's in your care at this school."

"Can you suggest a time we can talk about the next steps in this process? I'm concerned"

STYLE



Eye Contact



Gestures



Power Posture



Tone



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We believe student achievement, moral development, and appreciation for America's unique heritage and government belong at the center of school policies and curriculum.

We fight for equal rights because we believe in equal value. Racial discrimination and critical race theory matter, not just because they erode the fabric of this nation, or threaten our freedom, they matter because they fly in the face of the belief that every person, every child, is just as important as the next.

www.edfirstnc.org