Critical Race Theory in Kansas Schools – written testimony Special Committee on Education Dave Trabert – CEO December 1, 2021



Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Kansas Department of Education says critical race is not in state standards, but what takes place in schools is a different matter, and there is ample evidence of CRT in Kansas schools.

Some examples of the evidence we've uncovered follow, and for the record, school districts and state officials have not disputed these findings. I personally presented this evidence to the State Board of Education and they chose not to comment. This evidence has also been shared with local school boards and local officials, and no one raised any objections.

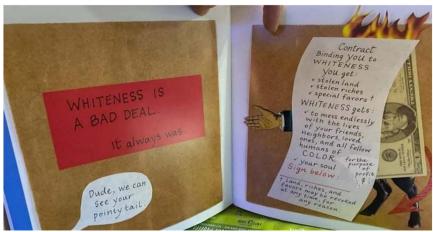
It is all done under the guise of diversity, equity, and inclusion, but parents are not fooled by the deception. They are furious that, for example, their children are being taught that white people are racist just because they are white, and people of color are victims of white supremacy.

Indoctrination about race, gender, and sexuality may not be part of the 'official' curricula, but it is prevalent across the state. It exists in teaching training materials, libraries, and a variety of classroom situations.

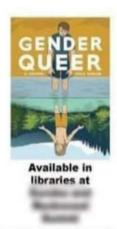
# **USD 450 Shawnee Heights**

The Shawnee Heights Middle School library has a considerable collection of books that many parents find to be highly objectionable.

One entitled *Not My Idea* includes a 'Whiteness' contract with a devilish figure that says whiteness gets you stolen land, stolen riches, special favors, and lets you "mess endlessly with the lives of your friends, neighbors, loved ones, and all fellow humans of color for the purpose of profit."

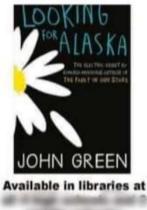


Other books, including Gender Queer and Looking Into Alaska, contain sexually graphic illustrations and language that many parents believe is wholly inappropriate, especially for middle school students.









"I think I want to," she said, and we kissed a little, and then... with me sitting watching The Brady Bunch... Lara unbuttoned my pants and pulled my boxers down..., and pulled out my penis... And then she wrapped her hand around it and put it into her mouth."

The girl didn't know what to do next, so they consulted Alaska, the boy's porn watching buddy. Alaska demonstrated how to do it using a tube of toothpaste.

The book continues... "Lara and I went back to her room, where she did exactly what Alaska told her to do, and I did exactly what Alaska said I would do, which was die a hundred little ecstatic deaths, my fists clenched, my body shaking. It was my first orgasm with a girl..."

### USD 259 Wichita

- District spokesperson Wendy Johnson says the district has "not approved or recommended, per se" the 1619 Project and similar resources listed, but simply "provides the material as resources" for teachers. A <u>Heritage Foundation review</u> of The 1619 Project calls it a "reframing" of our nation's history as being based on slavery. The review says 1619 Project includes an essay entitled "Undemocratic Democracy" that "paints today's Republican Party as a direct descendent of America's racist past."
- Other examples on the district's <u>resource page</u> include Black Lives Matter, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Zinn Education Project. The <u>Washington Examiner</u> says Zinn's founder, Howard Zinn, is "a Marxist historian who served as a foot soldier in the Communist Party."
- More documentation and discussion can be <u>found here</u>.

## **USD 229 Blue Valley**

- A Diversity Club <u>video</u> shown in a virtual student assembly features teachers criticizing Whites, Christians, and Republicans. One teacher promoted a fictitious drug called Empathica for white people who are "tired of constantly hearing about racial inequality in America." He lists potential side effects including "an uncomfortable realization that your feelings of exhaustion and frustration with this issue are things people of color have dealt with for generations" and a "subtle understanding that racism in America no longer requires physical racists to be present." More discussion can be found <a href="here">here</a>.
- Teachers are <u>asking students to declare their preferred pronouns</u> and offering to keep it a secret from parents if they wish.
- A slide from a Blue Valley <u>teacher training guide</u> says people who are white, male, heterosexual, upper-middle class, athletic, able-bodied, or neurotypical are in the Dominant Culture. People who do not fall under one of those identities are part of the subordinate culture.

## **USD 415 Hiawatha**

- Former Hiawatha teacher Stuart Aller <u>told the Board of Education</u> that the tenets of critical race theory were indeed part of the culture under the guise of the district's Diversity and Inclusion Council. Aller said, "I'm concerned that this (Diversity) council ... is an indoctrination and discrimination tool," Aller said. "We received staff and student training that places blame for societal problems on those having white skin color."
- Aller said; there was a culture that expressed the concepts of CRT among teachers. "During lunch breaks in the teacher workroom, I routinely heard remarks about whiteness, white fragility, privilege, these buzz terms that critical race theory uses and it's concerning," Aller told the board. "It doesn't provide for a welcoming or inclusive environment at all. It makes, actually, for a hostile and uncomfortable environment for those trying to live a humble and quiet life."

#### **USD 512 Shawnee Mission**

• The Shawnee Mission school district says it doesn't use critical race theory, but a *Sentinel* investigation found that the district spent more \$400,000 on Corwin's <u>Deep Equity training</u>, which is based on <u>critical race theory</u>. Corwin says its Deep Equity program is based on the work of <u>Gary Howard</u>, who believes White people "<u>are collectively bound</u>"

and unavoidably complicit in the arrangements of dominance that have systematically favored our racial group over others."

- A video called *Rolling in the Deep Equity* exposes elements of the Deep Equity teacher and student training. Deep Equity's author, Gary Howard, is seen saying, "Let' talk about the founding of our country. The American dilemma...the good of the many vs the wealth and power of the few. These ideas were set in stone in 1787."
- A student who had been through the training tells the interviewer in the video, "I never really knew about social justice. But today they gave me a definition that will stick with me for a lifetime. The good of many rather than the greed of a few."
- Facilitators are given strategies to shut down criticism, which Howard says most often comes from "white, male, social studies types and conservative Christians...." Howard also refers to them as "negative people."
- Throughout the training, participants are reminded that "whiteness" is a bad thing. Howard reflects on what it means "to be white in a country with such a difficult history on race, and my (white) group has been the dominant, oppressive group in many ways."
- Participants play a game called Culture Toss. People are required to give up elements of their "identity," two at a time, to survive in an oppressive police state where people are "disappeared." This is equated with being a "marginalized" student in the dominant culture kids must give up elements of their true selves to conform to a culture of "whiteness."
- The indoctrination goes all the way into elementary school. Howard says part of the work on "social dominance and social justice" is to ask "elementary, middle school, or high school (students)...how they are experiencing systems of privilege and preference reinforced by power that favors certain groups over others in their school settings and community settings."

#### USD 233 Olathe

- A parent wrote to the superintendent about a curriculum decision, saying it had been on the agenda for the June 30 BOE meeting and noted a multitude of links on the district's "Diversity and Resources" page, which has since been made "unavailable" by the district.
- "This sharp turn into politicizing the social justice discussion in our children's classrooms is
  wholly unacceptable and truly alarming," the parent wrote. "The NTC curriculum is
  intended to be used in our early childhood teacher training. The linked teacher resources

from the SPLC are to be used, at the recommendation of the District by ANY teacher in the District to have these difficult and nuanced discussions from an entirely leftist political point of view."

- The parent notes that the link to the "Learning for Justice," classroom "resources" page labeled "lessons," are statements such as "For white children in particular, these stories offer a way of balancing the negative role that white people have played in maintaining a system of racism with concrete stories about people who have worked and continue to work to dismantle that system," suggesting that all white people are racist, and includes lessons on "diversity" for children as young as kindergarten.
- The lesson entitled "<u>Analyzing Gender Stereotypes in Media</u>" allegedly ... "helps students analyze and critique messages about gender that they get from various media. Students will focus on toys and toy advertisements, challenging themselves to think past what advertisements tell them about their gender identity."
- Students are told to complete a gender identity questionnaire. It first asks students to declare their gender identity, their preferred gender expression, their sex assigned at birth (with an option other than male or female), whether they are physically attracted to women, men, or other genders, and to which gender they are emotionally attracted.
- Students are then asked if they know their identity and whether they are still in "identity
  confusion stage." The form also declares that discovering one's identity is a "primary goal"
  for adolescents.
- This first happened in February and the district said it wouldn't happen again. But it did on October 25.
- A book entitled All Boys Aren't Blue details the sexual exploits of a young man is on the approved reading list for students as young as sixth grade in some Johnson County School districts. The book is a nonfiction memoir that describes sexual acts in graphic detail.
- Pages from the book posted on social media are graphic. "He reached his hand down and pulled out my dick. He quickly went to giving head," page 266 of the book reads.
- Blue Valley and Shawnee Mission have the same book in their libraries.

