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“Our contest is not only whether we ourselves shall be free, but whether there shall be left to mankind an asylum on earth for civil and religious liberty.”
Samuel Adams

States Consider Multicultural Education Legislation / Organizations Offer Pro-American Resources

Multiple state legislatures are considering bills which would advance progressive ideology in education through expansion of so-called multicultural education. While multicultural education is not a new area of study, many of the bills seek to change the subject matter focus in order to advance a leftist ideology that promotes critical race theory, identity politics, and a false narrative of America’s founding. In [Louisiana](#), a bill was introduced which “requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education study the history of racism, racism’s effects on public education, and anti-racism education and creates a task force to develop recommendations for implementing such education.” The [New Jersey](#) state legislature is considering a bill which requires school districts to include instruction on “diversity and tolerance” in grades K-12. The legislation specifies that the instruction should include “economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance . . . in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance, and unconscious bias.” The [Maryland Senate](#) is considering a bill which would establish a commission to “develop standards and a model statewide curriculum for multicultural education” which would provide a model for teachers to implement. In [Nebraska](#), a bill was introduced which would expand the state’s current multicultural education requirements to ensure the courses reflect the “diverse races and cultures of all persons in Nebraska and the United States of America.” The bill includes homeschools and private and faith-based schools in the requirements.

In response to the movement to infuse education with leftist and progressive ideology, several groups are developing educational resources that promote an accurate view of American history. PragerU, a non-profit organization that uses social media to advance American values and history, recently announced a new educational program, [PragerU Resources for Educators & Parents \(PREP\)](#), to provide resources for parents, children, and educators that teach about the true founding of America and the values that make our country great. Jill Simonian, director of outreach for PragerU’s educational programs, emphasized the need for the program in a recent [interview](#) with the Daily Signal: “We have this philosophy being shoved down so many of our throats about programs that are being called diversity, equity, and inclusion. But really, these are politicized, agenda-driven narratives that are teaching kids and families to hate America.” She further explained that the PREP materials are designed to “celebrate American values through a child’s eyes.” The National Association of Scholars has published [The Civics Alliance: An Open Letter and Curriculum Statement](#) to counteract “action civics” which is being promoted in many public educational settings over traditional American civics classes. Additionally, the [1776 Commission](#), established under President Trump to combat the rise of anti-American instruction and philosophy in public education and offer educational resources on America’s founding documents, released its initial report in January and indicated they will [continue their work](#), despite an executive order by President Biden to disband the commission.

Department of Education Releases FAQ on Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools

Last week, the Department of Education updated its [FAQ document](#) to help educators and schools navigate the [Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools](#) (EANS) funding included in the COVID-19 relief law passed on December 27, 2020. The EANS program provides \$2.75 billion allocated by the Department of Education to governors that applied for the program. After receiving funds, the state education agency (SEA) administers the program, communicating with non-public schools about the application process and distributing the services, assistance, and reimbursements. Non-public schools, including Christian schools, can apply under EANS for certain COVID-19 related services or assistance such as cleaning supplies, mobile ventilation systems, and educational technology. The FAQ also clarifies that the services, assistance, or reimbursements provided to non-public schools for qualifying expenses under EANS are not considered federal financial assistance, since the control of the funding stays with the SEA. This protects Christian schools from burdensome strings attached to receiving government funds. Schools interested in applying for EANS for reimbursements for purchases made after March 13, 2020, should maintain thorough documentation of qualifying purchases. The FAQ does not include changes to the EANS program under the [American Rescue Plan](#), the \$1.9 trillion stimulus law passed March 11, 2020. The American Rescue Plan allocates an additional \$2.75 billion to EANS but now requires that funds be delivered only to schools with a “significant percentage of low-income students.” Schools will also not be able to use the renewed EANS for reimbursements.

Becerra Confirmation to HHS a Threat to Life and Religious Liberty

Last week, the Senate voted to confirm Xavier Becerra as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) by a vote of [50-49](#), with Sen. Susan Collins (ME) being the only Republican to join all the Democrats in supporting his confirmation. Becerra received much criticism from Republicans and pro-life advocates for his [extreme pro-abortion views and policies](#), demonstrated while serving as a Congressman from 1993 to 2017, and then as California’s attorney general. His record includes voting against the partial-birth abortion ban, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act, and the Hyde Amendment (which ensures federal funds do not support abortion). Additionally, while serving as California’s attorney general, he participated in the prosecution against the pro-life journalists who exposed Planned Parenthood’s horrific practice of selling aborted baby parts; he sued a school district that had separate bathrooms for transgender students rather than allowing them to use the bathroom of their choice; he attempted to force pro-life pregnancy care centers to promote abortion; and he fought against the religious exemption in Obamacare. Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, [noted](#) that his confirmation is “alarming given the fact that he has spent his career expanding pro-abortion policies and persecuting pro-life groups and individuals.” She added her concern that he will “weaponize” the HHS “to attack or disadvantage those with whom he disagrees,” and added, “Pro-life Americans will be keeping a close eye on Becerra’s agenda and will continue to speak out in defense of women and the unborn.”

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACIS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Joint Statement Regarding the Equality Act on Behalf of Christian Schools and Educators](#)

[Education Freedom Benefits All Students – Even Public School Students](#)

[West Virginia Families, Students Have New Reason for Hope in Education Options](#)