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“The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty; and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments.”
~ Benjamin Rush

1776 Curriculum Published to Counter Teaching of Critical Race Theory

In an effort to provide resources to parents, teachers, and school board members who are fighting to defend and preserve an accurate teaching of American history, Hillsdale College has produced the [Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum](#). The new curriculum is a free resource which contains eighty-five lesson plans covering America’s founding, the Civil War, and civics. Further resources and lesson plans covering Colonial America, the Early Republic, the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, the Great War and Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression and World War II, and the Cold War and Modern America will be available in the near future. The curriculum is the result of the collaboration of teachers, professors, and members of the 1776 Commission who are committed to ensuring there are resources available which give an accurate reflection of American history to students. The 1776 Commission was established under President Trump to combat the rise of critical race theory (CRT) and promote patriotic education, but it was canceled by President Biden on his first day in office. Dr. Matthew Spalding, Dean of Hillsdale’s Van Andel Graduate School of Government and one of the 1776 Commission members who worked on the curriculum, [called the curriculum](#) a “straightforward, non-controversial, honest, and accurate history that just a few years ago would have been completely uncontroversial.” He further explained, “I think there was a natural reaction by a lot of people on the left, right, and center that [CRT] doesn’t make sense. America is not this evil, racist country. It’s not rotten to the core. It’s not perfect, [but] it’s trying to live up to its principles.” Speaking of the efforts to teach CRT and the 1619 Project in education, he [pointed out](#), “We must understand this is not merely a view of history versus another view of history. . . . What’s going on is an ideological struggle, and they’re putting it within the classroom to fight about politics in the classroom, which all Americans should object to.”

A [recent poll](#) conducted by Parents Defending Education in April shows that the majority of Americans (88%) are indeed opposed to teaching the philosophy promoted by critical race theory that non-white students are “oppressed” while white students are the “oppressors.” The poll also shows that a strong majority of Americans oppose teaching that America is systemically racist and founded on racist principles (69%) and teaching that people can choose their own gender rather than teaching there are two biological genders (75%). A larger percentage (80%) also oppose teaching political activism in the classroom. Nicole Neily, president of Parents Defending Education, pointed out that the “results of this poll confirm that the campaign by extremists to transform our schools into political activist training camps is deeply unpopular among Republicans and Democrats alike.” She also noted that “this poll is a shot across the bow at those school districts, school boards, state legislatures, and governors who have either implemented ‘woke’ policies in schools or stood by while activists did so. Dividing our kids and communities based on skin color is abhorrent and has no place in America.”

Department of Education Releases Final Requirements for the EANS Program

The Department of Education (DOE) has published the final requirements for the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program, as provided for through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). This program is intended to provide services and assistance to non-public schools for [COVID-19 related expenses](#), including cleaning supplies, air purification systems, personal protective equipment, physical barriers, and training for staff on how to minimize the spread of the virus. According to the final requirements, participation in the EANS program is open to private schools that have a “significant percentage of students from low-income families and are most impacted by COVID-19.” To [meet the requirement](#) of “a significant percentage of low-income families,” schools must show that they “meet or exceed either 40 percent or the State’s approved alternate significant poverty percentage.” To determine whether a non-public school is “most impacted by COVID-19,” the state educational agency (SEA) must consider the number of COVID-19 deaths in the community surrounding the non-public school, the number of COVID-19 infections, the effect of “lost instructional time,” and the mental health and economic impacts of the pandemic. The funds for the services will be distributed through grants which will be awarded to governors who have applied and been approved for assistance to eligible non-public schools. The EANS program will be administered by the state educational agency. Schools interested in participating in the program should contact their governor’s office to urge the application for the EANS grants and their state educational agency to indicate their interest and needs. The AACS Washington Office has prepared a [white paper](#) with more information on COVID-19 relief resources that are available for private schools. *(Written by summer intern Zach Jewell)*

Federal Court Rules Against CA Gov. Newsom and for Educational Freedom

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against California Governor Gavin Newsom’s COVID-19 mandates for private schools which prohibited private schools from teaching students in person. According to the ruling, prohibiting private schools from providing in-person instruction was unconstitutional. Judge Daniel Collins of the 9th Circuit [commented](#), “California’s forced closure of their private schools implicates a right that has long been considered fundamental under the applicable caselaw—the right of parents to control their children’s education and to choose their children’s educational forum.” The case was brought to the court by the Center for American Liberty and twenty plaintiffs in July 2020. Five of the plaintiffs [argued](#) that Newsom’s mandate “overstepped his authority and illegally denied parents the right to have control over their children’s education.” A year later, the court has agreed with the plaintiffs in a victory for educational freedom and private school students and their parents. However, some view the decision as only a partial victory because the court upheld mandates that prohibited public schools from providing in-person instruction. Harmeet Dhillon, founder and lead attorney at the Center for American Liberty [offered this explanation](#): “While we are thrilled for our clients whose rights are vindicated by today’s decision, we are disappointed the 9th Circuit did not rule that all students, including those in public school, have a basic right to an education. We will continue to advocate for the educational rights of all students.” However, parents in California and on the West Coast who choose to send their children to private schools can rest a little easier, knowing that their state governments cannot dictate whether or not private schools can teach their students with in-person instruction. *(Written by summer intern Zach Jewell)*

In Case You Missed It:

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

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

[Promise to America’s Children](#)