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“It is impossible to reason without arriving at a Supreme Being.”
George Washington

Videos Show Critical Race Theory Still Taught, Even Where Prohibited

Although several [states](#) have passed legislation prohibiting the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT), recent reporting by Accuracy in Media reveals that school districts in some of these states are still including teaching and materials that promote the harmful philosophy that divides people by defining a person’s worth by skin color. According to [videos taken by hidden cameras](#), school districts in Idaho, Iowa, and Tennessee are teaching CRT concepts but using different terms for the topics such as social emotional learning, mental health, and circumstance rather than “white privilege.” In a [recent interview](#) with the Daily Signal Podcast, the president of Accuracy in Media Adam Guillette reported that he visited nearly 100 school districts and found that not one reported that the laws banning CRT education had caused them to change any of their teaching. Rather, the administrators admitted that teachers can close their classroom doors and cover any topic, and in fact, many teachers still teach the ideas that capitalism is inherently racist and America is systemically oppressive. As Guillette states, “All of the things we equate with Critical Race Theory, they haven’t stopped teaching any of it.” He notes that part of the problem is that the laws that have been passed prohibiting CRT have “no teeth” that act as a deterrent; in other words, if a teacher or school is found in violation of the law, there would be no consequences because the law does not include consequences.

The answer, according to Guillette, is school choice which would place more power in the hands of the parents to direct their children’s education. Jonathan Butcher, education policy expert at the Heritage Foundation and author of *Splintered: Critical Race Theory and the Progressive War on Truth*, agrees and names additional steps that parents and state legislators can take to ensure racist ideologies are not taught in schools. Legislation intended to prohibit the teaching of the CRT ideology should specifically state that no teacher or student can be compelled “to affirm or believe or act on any idea that violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” Mr. Butcher explains that in so doing, the law is connected to a specific behavior which can then be charged or prosecuted. For example, the Wellesley Public Schools in Massachusetts [recently settled](#) after being sued by Parents Defending Education for creating mandatory “affinity groups” which divided (and excluded) students according to skin color. Furthermore, Mr. Butcher stresses the importance of requiring curriculum transparency (making teaching materials accessible online) and also passing “parents’ bill of rights” bills such as has been done in [several states](#), most recently in [Georgia](#). The GA Parents’ Bill of Rights specifically states that “no state or local government entity . . . may infringe on the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing and education of his or her minor child without demonstrating that such action is reasonable and necessary to achieve a compelling state interest and that such action is narrowly tailored and is not otherwise served by less restrictive means.” Will Estrada, president of ParentalRights.org, [points out](#) this language creates a “very high bar for the government” and, thus, provides sufficient accountability for the government that, in turn, provides protection for parental rights in education.

Polls Show Majority of Americans Oppose Abortion

In the days following the leak of the Supreme Court's draft *Dobbs* decision that would overturn the right to an abortion supposedly discovered in *Roe v. Wade*, major news sites have shared surveys claiming that most Americans support abortion. One CNN [poll](#) reports that 66% of surveyed Americans do not support an overturning of *Roe*, and 59% support nationwide legislation codifying a right to an abortion. However, polls such as the one by CNN often obscure the [complicated views](#) many Americans have about abortion. Other [polls](#) have found that Americans support *Roe v. Wade* but do not support unlimited access to abortion, revealing that most Americans have a misconception that overturning *Roe* would instantly ban all abortions in America. When asked particular questions about abortion, however, many Americans prove to be more pro-life than the CNN poll admits. A January 2022 Marist poll found that 71% of Americans support restrictions on abortions. A December 2021 poll found that 56% of Americans either support the complete overturn of *Roe v. Wade* or support the Mississippi ban on abortions after 15 weeks. Fox News found a similar result in its May 2022 poll, finding that 50% of Americans support banning abortion after 6 weeks and 54% support banning abortion after 15 weeks. A June 2021 [Gallup poll](#) found that 52% of Americans want to see all or most abortions made illegal. The same Gallup poll found that while Americans support banning or limiting abortions by a 52-45% margin, they also identify as pro-choice by a 49-47% margin. These polling results show that while most Americans may identify as pro-choice, they actually also support substantial restrictions on abortion.

New York Times Confronts the Consequences of School Closures

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, major news sources are finally [admitting](#) the detrimental consequences of school closures on students. Last week, the *New York Times* ran a [newsletter](#) sharing new research that shows how school closures and remote learning largely failed students. Researchers at Harvard's Center for Education Policy have studied testing results in math and reading and compared pre-pandemic test scores to pandemic scores to find how much learning loss resulted from school closures. They found that students who attended in-person school for most of the 2020–21 school year lost 20% of a year's math learning compared to students who attended mostly remote school who lost 50% of a year's math learning. High levels of learning loss were more prevalent among poorer students as cities and powerful teachers' unions kept schools closed longer than rural or suburban areas. The *Times* article states that the crisis in education could have been avoided if school officials and politicians heeded the early evidence that schools were not vectors of COVID-19. Last week, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten acknowledged that prolonged school closures have had a [negative effect](#) on students' mental and physical health after nearly two years of isolation. Her comments did not acknowledge that it was her own teachers' union that pushed for extended school closures and continued remote learning despite the successful reopening of many private and religious schools. According to Corey DeAngelis at the [CATO Institute](#), "These union-induced school closures harm students academically, mentally and physically, with virtually no reduction in overall coronavirus transmission or child mortality."

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