VOCABULARY FOR UNDERSTANDING 21ST CENTURY WOKENESS IN EDUCATION

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Dear BEST Friend,

Wokeness in education and the terminology that accompanies these teachings have been slowly creeping into our K-12 schools for years. I wanted to share with you this vocabulary guide for understanding the horrific content that has seeped into our children’s curriculum.

Social justice propagandists have suggested that kids as young as three months are “not too young to talk about race.” But the reality is, teaching Critical Race Theory in K-12 classrooms is just about as close to indoctrination as it gets, when educators teach kids to think about everything through the lens of race during crucial years of development, when their ability to think for themselves has yet to be refined, it has the unintended consequence of dividing people even further. CRT is illiberal, to the fullest extent of the word, and moves us in the opposite direction in which the country should be headed by framing everything in terms of racial identity.

When it comes to providing the children of this great nation with a quality education and the skills they need to seek objective truth, the biggest mistake educators and bureaucrats can make is to teach history and civics lessons contextualized by activism.

Parents and school board leaders need to say that enough is enough.

Sooner than later, the voices of parents will be heard. Don’t put a label on our kids, and don’t teach them that their inherent dignity and worth has nothing to do with the color of their skin.

We will continue to show up to school board meetings and voice our opposition to CRT. More importantly, for elected officials who choose to ignore our concerns, we will vote them out of office, take control of our childrens’ education and put an end to government endorsed indoctrination.

Laura Zorc / Director of Education Reform

www.parentsknowbest.com
ABOLITIONIST TEACHING - Training and project based activities to assist teachers, students, and parents to identify. White abolitionism is the optimum level of whiteness to obtain as a white person. See: Whiteness the 8 levels to identify

ACTION CIVICS - A model of teaching civics that downplays America's founding principles, governmental structure, etc., and pushes students to become political activists. Approved projects may include actively lobbying for or against legislation, participating in political demonstrations, etc. As a practical matter, all projects are directed toward leftist activism. Synonyms: New Civics or Project-Based Civics.

ANTI-RACISM - i) The practice of dismantling a system marked by white supremacy and anti-Black racism through deliberate action. ii) A theory that explains and exposes multiple forms of racism: overt and covert, interpersonal and institutional, historical and present day, persistent and nascent

BIPOC - Black indigenous people/person of color

COLORBLIND RACISM - i) The worldview that suggests that since race should not matter, it does not matter. ii) An ideology that insists that everyone be treated without regard to race, accompanied by a denial of the causes and consequences of racism

CO-OPTATION - i) Taking an idea, disassembling it, reassembling it with original pieces as well as retrofitted ones; giving the modified thing a different name than the original and then claiming originality. ii) Appropriation; falsely claiming rights to or innovation of something as one's own

COLORISM - i) A practice whereby privileges and disadvantages are systematically doled out on the basis of skin color, with a disproportionate amount of advantage provided to lighter-skinned people. Synonym: light-skin privilege
**COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS** - A training curriculum used to “address racial disparities through safe, authentic, and effective cross-racial dialogue.” They operate from a starting point that racial disparities are equal to systemic racism.

**CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING** - A pedagogy that emphasizes including students’ cultural references in all curricula. For example, works by William Shakespeare and Jane Austin may be replaced with those of Maya Angelou and Sandra Cisneros. Related to Action Civics and Critical Race Theory.

**CRITICAL RACE THEORY (CRT)** - A theory that examines and critiques the appearance of race and racism across dominant cultural modes of expression. Critical race theorists hold that the law and legal institutions in the United States are inherently racist insofar as they function to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially African Americans.

It’s important to understand that these ideas that were formed in the 1990’s are based on a Marxist background that sought to divide individuals by class. In today’s culture, they have replaced class with race. What we’re left with is any disparate outcomes among races being termed as systemic racism and/or white oppression. This theory has become an ideology, and that ideology has spread across America’s schools, businesses, government agencies, human resources protocols, and more.

**DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, EQUITY (DIE)** - A series of buzzwords that promote the same tenets as Critical Race Theory. Focus is to teach equating disparities with oppression.

**DIVERSITY TRAINING** - Any program designed to facilitate positive intergroup interaction, reduce prejudice and discrimination, and generally teach individuals who are different from others how to work together effectively. Goal is to presupposes that there is implicit discrimination and prejudice amongst a group. Implies that interactions should be different based on their identity.
prejudice amongst a group. Implies that interactions should be different based on their identity groups.

DEHUMANIZATION - i) The notion that some people are less than human ii) The routine association of Blacks with demons and animals, such as apes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) - Under Common Core, a way to bring social and cultural issues, including “social justice,” climate activism, and other biased curriculum, into English class.

EPISTEMOLOGY OF IGNORANCE - i) A militant, aggressive willingness to not know ii) A process of knowing designed to produce not knowing about white privilege and white supremacy

EQUALITY - Treating students the same regardless of their immutable characteristics. In today’s groupthink, there is no room for equality, only racist and anti-racist.

equity Treating students differently depending on their membership in historically “privileged” or “oppressed” racial groups. Students from oppressed groups are to be given special treatment because of their race, with the ultimate goal of ensuring equal outcomes for all groups regardless of merit or effort.

FALSE EQUIVALENCE - i) A logical fallacy, whereby two opposing sides of an argument are deemed equivalent when they actually are not. ii) A reliance on feeble similarities in an attempt to make moot the more important observation and effect of the glaring differences.

IBRAM X. KENDI - The modern day leader of the current antiracism (racist) movement. He teaches that the only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination and the only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination. See Kendi’s Book: How to Be an AntiRacist

ICIVICS - iCivics a left leaning curriculum that promotes civics education and encourages students to become active citizens. Emphasis is on promoting activism.

INSTITUTIONAL OPPRESSION - The systematic mistreatment of people within a social
identity group. Oppression is often conflated with “inequity”. When this happens groups blame institutions because outcomes are not identical and insist that they manipulate their practices until outcomes are identical.

**IMPLICIT BIAS** - Refers to attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious way, making them difficult to control. Teachings focus on identifying the root of bias.

**POC** - Person/People of Color

**SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)** - The opposite of learning academic content (English, history, math, science, etc.). Pseudo-therapy that conditions children to exhibit the “correct” values, attitudes, mindsets, and behaviors. Now openly focused on indoctrinating them with biased political and cultural attitudes. Synonym: Whole Child Education

**WHITE FRAGILITY** - an emotional response or reactions including dismissiveness, anger, resentment, defensiveness, and more by white people when introduced to teaching concepts like white privilege or bringing up social injustices against the Black community. There are a variety of common phrases “they” use: i) “I have a Black friend/ family member, so I’m not racist.” ii) “Racism ended with slavery.” iii)“I am colorblind, so I’m not racist.” i See Robin DiAngelo’s book, White Fragility.
Whiteness Categorized Into Eight Different White Political Identities:

1. **WHITE SUPREMACIST.** Clearly marked white society that preserves, names, and values white superiority.

2. **WHITE VOYEURISM.** Wouldn’t challenge a white supremacist; desires non-whiteness because it’s interesting, pleasurable; seeks to control the consumption and appropriation of non-whiteness; fascination with culture (ex. consuming Black culture without the burden of Blackness).

3. **WHITE PRIVILEGE.** May critique supremacy, but a deep investment in questions of fairness/equality under the normalization of whiteness and white rule; sworn goal of ‘diversity.’

4. **WHITE BENEFIT.** Sympathetic to a set of issues but only privately; won’t speak/act in solidarity publicly because benefitting through whiteness in public (some POC [People of Color] are in this category as well).

5. **WHITE CONFESSIONAL.** Some exposure of whiteness takes place, but as a way of being accountable to POC after; seek validation from POC.

6. **WHITE CRITICAL.** Take on board criticisms of whiteness and invest in exposing/marking the white regime; refuses to be complicit with the regime; whiteness speaking back to whiteness.

7. **WHITE TRAITOR.** Actively refuses complicity; names what’s going on; intention is to subvert white authority and tell the truth at whatever cost; need them to dismantle institutions.

8. **WHITE ABOLITIONIST.** Changing institutions, dismantling whiteness, and not allowing whiteness to reassert itself.
**WHITE PRIVILEGE** - The phrase was first coined by activist and scholar Peggy McIntosh in 1988 in her paper “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.” She described white privilege in terms of the unspoken advantage that the dominant culture has over people of color. In other words, power, benefits, and other advantages are distributed in unequal ways among the different groups in society. Specifically, with respect to white privilege, the advantage rests with white people.

**1619 PROJECT** - A series of essays, now morphed into K-12 school curricula, produced by The New York Times and based on the assertion that the seminal date of United States history isn’t 1776 but 1619 – when African slaves arrived in Virginia. Argues that slavery dictated all aspects of American history, including culture, economics, diplomacy, etc., and resulted in systemic racism that cannot be overcome without totalitarian efforts. Debunked by prominent historians of different political persuasions.

**Other terms to be aware of when examining curriculum.**

**SOME OF THE BELOW TERMS REPRESENT PRACTICES, IDEAS, OR FIELDS THAT ARE NOT ON THEIR OWN NEGATIVE BUT ARE OFTEN INCLUDED, USED, OR QUOTED IN CRT AND SIMILAR IDEOLOGIES.**
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