



# Critical Race Theory And Book Banning:

## Countering Mass Hysteria With Culturally Responsive Teaching

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# Overview

- ✓ Critical Race Theory
- ✓ The “OTHER” CRT: Culturally Responsive Teaching
- ✓ Banning books
- ✓ Moving forward



# Critical Race Theory defined

- ✓ Academic framework developed by legal scholars
- ✓ 1970s
- ✓ Methodology to analyze systemic racism
  - ✓ Legal system
  - ✓ Policies
  - ✓ Education
  - ✓ Other institutions
- ✓ Taught in law schools

# Systemic Racism in public schools

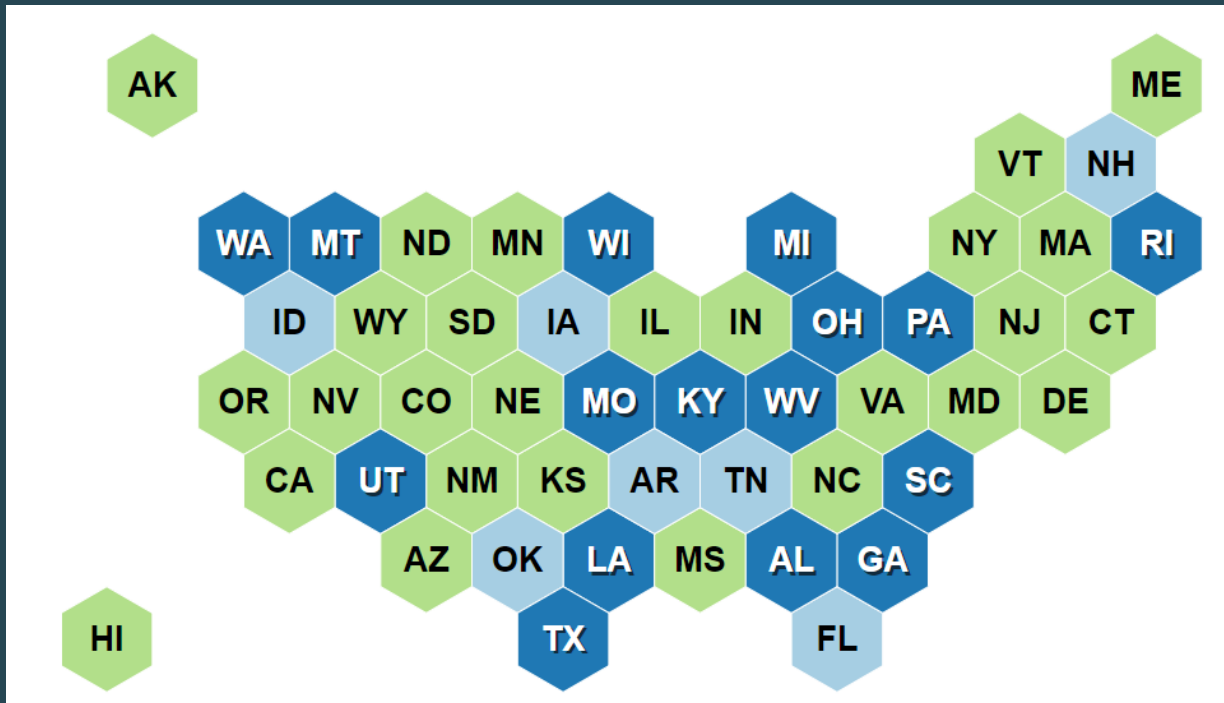
- ✓ Special education
- ✓ Suspension rates
- ✓ Achievement gap
- ✓ Low teacher expectations
- ✓ Access to honors and advanced placement courses
- ✓ Availability of extra-curricular activities
- ✓ Sports

# Banning CRT in the schools

- ✓ Co-opted the term
- ✓ Changed the meaning to include
  - ✓ Diversity and inclusion efforts
  - ✓ Race-conscious policies
  - ✓ Education about racism
- ✓ Advocating for a balanced, civic, and “patriotic” education

# NAACP Legal Defense Fund

- ✓ Bans of CRT deny the truth about our nation's history, silence dissent, and punish those who speak the truth to counter whitewashed falsehoods
- ✓ Attempts to ban CRT are really attacks on free speech, on discussions about the truthful history of race and racism in the U.S. and the lived experiences of black people and other people of color.



## States that have banned CRT

- Arkansas
- Florida
- Idaho
- Iowa
- New Hampshire
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee

Banned
  Possible Ban in Progress
  No Restriction

“Some of this stuff is, I think, really toxic. I think it’s going to cause a lot of divisions. I think it’ll cause people to think of themselves more as a member of particular race based on skin color, rather than based on the content of their character and based on their hard work and what they’re trying to accomplish in life.”





# The “OTHER” CRT

## Culturally Responsive Teaching

- ✓ Research-based approach
- ✓ Raises expectations and makes learning relevant for all students
- ✓ Uses cultural knowledge (race, ethnicity, gender, social-economic status, identity, etc.), experiences, and learning styles to make learning more appropriate and effective for all students

# The “OTHER” CRT

## Culturally Responsive Teaching

- ✓ Acknowledges the legitimacy of cultural heritages
- ✓ Makes connections between what's learned in the textbook and what's real in children's lives
- ✓ Teaches students to know and praise their own and each other's cultural heritages

# The “OTHER” CRT

## Culturally Responsive Teaching

- ✓ Incorporates multicultural information, resources, and materials in all the subjects and skills taught in class.



# Book Banning

- ✓ 1982 Supreme Court Case: Island Trees School District, NY
- ✓ “anti-American”  
“anti-Christian”  
“anti-Semitic” “just plain filthy”

- Slaughterhouse Five
- The Naked Ape
- \*Down These Mean Streets
- \*Best Short Stories of Negro Writers
- \*Black Boy
- \*A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich

# Supreme Court Decision

- ✓ School officials **MAY NOT** remove books from the school library simply because they dislike the ideas in the book
- ✓ School officials **MAY** remove a book from a school library if it is inappropriate for the children of the school.

# Most Challenged High School Books (ALA)

- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- The Catcher in the Rye
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Bridge to Terabithia
- The Lord of the Flies
- Of Mice and Men
- \*The Color Purple
- The Harry Potter Series
- Slaughterhouse Five
- \*The Bluest Eye

# Challenged Elementary School Books

- Are you there, God?  
It's me, Margaret
- My Mom's Having a Baby
- \*The Watson's Go to Birmingham
- \*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
- The Lorax
- The Adventures of Captain Underpants
- \*A Light in the Attic

# Book Banning in Florida

- ✓ HB 1467
- ✓ District school boards must report to the DOE any material for which the school district received an objection to
- ✓ District school boards report any material that was removed as a result of the objections
- ✓ DOE would publish a list of materials that were removed or discontinued as a result of an objection and disseminate the list to school districts for consideration in their selection procedures.



# Book Banning in Florida

- ✓ Flagler County Public Schools: “All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson
- ✓ Polk County group County Citizens Defending Freedom
  - Almost Perfect
  - \*Beloved
  - \*The Bluest Eye
  - Drama
  - Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close
  - George
  - Tricks
  - Two Boys Kissing
  - I am Jazz
  - It’s Perfectly Normal
  - \*The Kite Runner
  - More Happy Than Not
  - Nineteen Minutes
  - Real Live Boyfriends
  - Thirteen Reasons Why
  - The Vincent Boys

# Book Banning in Florida

“I agree with the fundamental concept that parents have the right to control what their child reads. But they do not have the right to control what other parents’ children are reading. And let’s be real, most of these movements to ban books in our schools, which should trouble all of us, are mostly movements to ban books about **US.**” Representative Carlos Smith, Orlando

# Book Banning nationally

- ✓ Virginia
  - ✓ Experiences of LGBTQ teens
- ✓ Tennessee
  - ✓ Maus
- ✓ Missouri
  - ✓ The Bluest Eye

WHERE DO WE GO  
FROM HERE?

KEEP DOING WHAT  
YOU ARE DOING!!



- ✓ Attending local school board, council, chamber of commerce meetings
- ✓ Running for political office and supporting candidates
- ✓ Conducting voter registration
- ✓ Establishing and supporting black businesses and nonprofits
- ✓ Mentoring our youth
- ✓ Showing up in Tallahassee
- ✓ Advocating for the health of our people
- ✓ Using social media



Get up, stand up.  
Stand up for  
your rights.  
Get up, stand up.  
Don't give up the  
fight.

# Sources of information

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