

## **WHAT IS HONESTY IN EDUCATION?**

Honesty in Education is the idea that students and educators should be free to discuss a wide variety of facts, events, and ideas. Public school standards are and should continue to be created with honesty and integrity and not influenced by politics. It is important for policymakers to treat educators with professionalism and respect while allowing for curriculum that respects the values of inclusivity and equity.

## **WHY SHOULD OHIO EDUCATORS CARE ABOUT THE ATTACKS ON HONESTY IN EDUCATION?**

There are currently two bills that have been introduced in the Ohio House that target educator's licenses and academic freedom. House Bill 322 and House Bill 327 seek to ban the teaching of a broad and loosely defined range of "divisive concepts." If enacted, an educator who violates these laws would endanger funding for their school district and possibly risk losing their license. These laws are supported by the same dark money groups that were behind the failed Senate Bill 5 and are their latest attempt to use fear and intimidation to advance their pro-charter school, anti-public education agenda.

## **WHY AM I SUDDENLY HEARING SO MUCH ABOUT SO-CALLED "CRITICAL RACE THEORY"?**

In 2020 Christopher Rufo, an employee of a pro-charter school think tank, began making the rounds on news programs discussing the concept of critical race theory and suggesting that it is a threat to America's school children. Since that time Rufo has appeared in the media hundreds of times, attacking everyone from the American Express to schoolteachers for what Rufo claims is their embrace of critical race theory. In a set of Tweets in March 2021 Rufo was surprisingly honest about his intentions to manipulate the definition of critical race theory for his own gain – "The goal is to have the public read something crazy in the newspaper and immediately think 'critical race theory'."

## **IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY TAUGHT IN OHIO K - 12?**

Critical race theory is not part of Ohio's Learning Standards and is not taught at the K – 12 level. Critical race theory is a sophisticated theoretical approach that looks at the complicated intersections of history, public policy, law, culture, and economics. Ohio's Learning Standards emphasize skills like critical thinking, problem solving and how to apply these skills to what students are learning in schools. The attack on so-called "critical race theory" attempts to convolute these efforts with dishonest rhetoric.

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST THESE ATTACKS AND SUPPORT HONESTY IN EDUCATION?**

The attacks on honesty in education will not be successful if educators are able to push back and inform the public about the reality of what is being taught in Ohio's public schools. Rufo and his allies have made tremendous progress towards their goal of scaring people into believe their lies about the public education system. Supporters of public education need to be vocal about the importance of protecting a student's right to receive an honest education and be exposed to a variety of facts, events, and ideas.