

Lincoln County School District No. 2
Board of Trustees
Statement on Critical Race Theory

Members of the Board and the Superintendent have been contacted by concerned parents and patrons in the past several months regarding whether “Critical Race Theory” and its related ideologies are being taught in the District’s schools.

Critical Race Theory is not a part of the approved curriculum for Lincoln County School District No. 2 schools. The Board opposes teaching of any ideology that judges or divides people based on their race. As the Declaration of Independence states, this board believes that “all men are created equal,” and should be treated as such.

The Board directs the superintendent and principals to monitor whether any of these ideologies are being taught in the district, and to take appropriate action, and to report to the Board if, or when, it is found.

Additionally, parents should stay apprised of what their children are learning at school. As parents have the primary responsibility for their children’s education, we encourage parents to regularly discuss with their children what they are learning at school. If parents have specific concerns about something their children are being taught at school, we urge them to contact the teacher or principal to discuss and resolve those concerns.

The educational standards to be followed in Wyoming’s public schools are set by the State Board of Education (State Board). In order to receive accreditation, districts must align their curriculum and teaching to these standards. While districts do have local control over specific classes, textbooks, and curricular materials they must align to the standards set by the State Board.

To date, the State Board has **not** adopted standards that would either require or encourage districts to teach Critical Race Theory. Additionally, we are not aware of any proposed standards by the State Board that would do so. **This board would strongly oppose any proposed standards that promote judging or dividing people based on their race.**

Additionally, the State Board’s standards adoption process is open to public input and comment. We encourage anyone concerned about Wyoming’s educational standards to participate in the standards setting process at the State Board.

Some individuals have expressed concerns that a teacher could introduce Critical Race Theory outside of the approved curriculum. As with any topic, this is certainly possible. However, school principals regularly evaluate teacher performance, and they are in turn evaluated by the superintendent. The board regularly evaluates the work of the superintendent. And, as stated before, parents should stay involved with what their children are learning at school. If you have specific concerns about a teacher or class, we encourage you to take your concerns directly to the teacher, school principal, or the Superintendent so that they can be addressed.

As with any controversial issue, rumors can spread rapidly about Critical Race Theory. The Board encourages everyone to not participate in spreading rumors. If you have specific, substantiated concerns, the Board asks you to contact the principal or superintendent with those concerns. However, trafficking in rumors, whether they be about Critical Race Theory, COVID, or any other topic serves no good purpose and damages our ability to deal with legitimate issues.

We appreciate parents and patrons sharing their concerns with us. We want you to know that we are aware of the issues surrounding Critical Race Theory. While there will always be challenges to providing quality education, we are thankful that we live in a community that works together to educate our children. We also express appreciation for the efforts of our teachers and staff to provide the best education possible to the district's students.

Respectfully,

Wade Hirschi

Chairman, Lincoln County School District No. 2

Approved by the Lincoln County School District No. 2 Board of Trustees on September 8, 2021