



PARENTS DEFENDING EDUCATION

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Our children's classrooms have become battlegrounds.



NICOLE NEILY
President

November 11, 2021

Dear John,

It's time to reclaim our schools.

American education is under assault by radical activists who are pushing harmful ideologies onto our children. This isn't just confined to college campuses anymore—it has even penetrated elementary schools.

Unless we meet and defeat this challenge head on, the very future of K-12 education—and our nation—is at stake.

My name is Nicole Neily. I am the president of **Parents Defending Education**—and I am a mother who is deeply concerned about the disastrously wrong turn our schools have taken.

That's why I founded Parents Defending Education, or PDE. I saw the urgent need for a national grassroots organization empowering parents to advocate for schools that educate—not indoctrinate.

We believe our children's education should be based on scholarship and facts, not political activism. It should nurture their development into the happy, resilient, free-thinking, educated citizens our democracy needs. Our classrooms should include rigorous instruction in history, civics, literature, math, the sciences, and the ideas and values that enrich our country—and the minds of our children themselves.

They should not teach children to despise our country and judge other people on the basis of the color of their skin.

I believe you and I are in agreement here. So I'd like to tell you more about Parents Defending

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Education. If you like what you hear—and I think you will—I **invite you to join us as we fight on behalf of parents and children to reclaim and restore American education.**

The propaganda weapons wielded against our children go by names such as Critical Race Theory, the “1619 Project,” and the inoffensive-sounding DEI: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. The activists behind this campaign to politicize education treat our children not as individuals to nurture and educate, but as members of identity groups in conflict with one another.

Many schools have already embraced this campaign, and many more are preparing to embrace it. This is a recipe for bitterness, racial division, and societal disintegration.

Under these theories and practices, which now hold sway in many school districts throughout the country, children are judged first and foremost by immutable characteristics such as ethnicity and skin color.

In fact, the entire history of the United States of America is alleged to be based on notions of racial conflict. Our children are taught that the United States—a nation whose history is full of inspirational triumphs, in addition to times when we did not live up to our high ideals—is an irredeemably evil country, poisoned at its very roots by “white supremacy.”

At the core of this dangerous movement is the offensive concept that the most important thing about a person is his or her race. Children—young children—are categorized as “oppressors” and the “oppressed”—divided solely on the basis of the color of their skin.

Pitting kids against each other is not education!

And telling children that they are evil because of the color of their skin is a profoundly evil act.

These fanatical theories are destroying American education. **We have no choice—we have to fight back.**

The stakes in this fight are enormous, but with your partnership we can defeat indoctrination in the classroom and promote the restoration of a healthy and nonpolitical education for our kids.

PDE doesn’t just criticize from the sidelines. We *act*.

To keep harmful ideologies out of our children’s schools, PDE is filing civil rights complaints, putting pressure on teachers unions and school administrators, and mobilizing parents to take action in their communities—all in order to make sure our schools are held to high standards of academic excellence.

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Our strategy has three components:

1. WE EMPOWER.

Knowledge is power. That's why we make it as easy as possible for busy parents to get informed and make a difference by providing easy-to-understand resources such as "know your rights" guides, one-pagers on questions to ask school administrators and board members, and published explanations of how to document and publicize problems and rights violations.

Schools are adopting destructive and radical curricula because activists on the other side have been getting organized and showing up, promoting their ideas to school officials, school boards, and teachers.

We must do the same. So Parents Defending Education is helping parents get organized in defense of their children and their education.

PDE teaches parents how to help themselves, providing field guides on how to get involved—be it through setting up their own parent organization, creating an anonymous social media account, or filing their own complaints with the school, state, and federal government.

2. WE EXPOSE.

At Parents Defending Education, we encourage parents and interested citizens to show up and demand answers of those education officials who are perpetrating what amounts to emotional abuse of children.

Through an aggressive Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) campaign, PDE gains access to documents from public schools and school districts around the country when we receive tips that merit investigation. When we learn of incidents that deserve greater attention, we publicize them through print, TV, radio, social media, and national and local press, putting education radicals on the defensive and in the spotlight.

3. WE ENGAGE.

In many cases, overzealous left-wing activists violate students' civil rights, including (but not limited to) their First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

PDE files complaints with the U.S. Department of Education's Office on Civil Rights, sending copies of the complaints to the schools as well as local media outlets. And working with the finest civil rights litigators in the country—lawyers who have argued numerous cases before the U.S. Supreme Court—PDE files lawsuits against such unconstitutional or otherwise illegal policies as compelled speech, chilled speech, racial/sexual discrimination, and due process violations.

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PDE also helps individuals tell the federal government know how they feel about initiatives like re-injecting race into the school discipline process and using a civics grant program as a Trojan Horse to sneak critical race theory into schools, building comment portals so people can submit comments to the Federal Register and have their voices heard.

It's amazing how quickly PDE is building a national coalition of parents who are showing up and engaging with teachers, principals, school boards, or local and state elected officials to help reclaim our schools.

We would love for you to be part of this movement!

We need more people to stand with us, because there are some truly poisonous ideas motivating these radicals. For instance, such basic acts as being on time and getting answers right are alleged to be vestiges of “white supremacy.”

It would be hard to come up with a more racist concept than the belief that right answers are somehow an exclusively “white” thing!

Such a contention reeks of racism—as if non-white students are incapable of answering questions correctly. In the name of “equity,” these radicals are waging a war on excellence.

For example, **Virginia and California have both proposed plans to eliminate accelerated math classes on the grounds that permitting children to take such courses is “racist.”**

This is madness.

We've all read about the toll that the last year and a half of lockdowns has taken on the mental health of Americans, including our children.

Yet Critical Race Theory pounds into the heads of impressionable children that they should feel bad about themselves based on the color of their skin!

Not only that, but so-called “bias response” teams have proliferated to silence anyone who dares to challenge these teachings. These are essentially censorship squads that encourage students to rat each other out—anonymously, if they choose—often for trivial “offenses.”

California, Maryland, Massachusetts—bias response teams are spreading like poison mushrooms, and they're probably headed for a school near you.

To take one example of many, the Wellesley, Massachusetts, public schools' bias policy lists “telling rude jokes” and “imitating someone's cultural norm” as examples of bias-based behavior.

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To illustrate these classroom offenses, a mandatory teacher training session gravely warned against such microaggressions (to use their ridiculous word) as “mispronouncing the names of students” and “scheduling tests and project due dates on religious or cultural holidays.” Other “offenses” include saying, “you’re so articulate,” and “my principal is crazy!”

It’s the administration of the Wellesley school district that is crazy. (Oh no: I’ve committed a microaggression!)

It would almost be funny if it weren’t destroying lives and our education system.

Yet the consequences are real: students are being woefully miseducated in ways that border on child abuse, with long-term consequences we can only begin to imagine as these kids enter the workforce.

Beyond dollars and cents, however, our kids must come first. They must learn how to interact with individuals who come from different backgrounds and viewpoints. And they must learn the fundamentals that they need to succeed in life...and for our society to succeed as a whole.

The good news is that the overwhelming majority of parents across the country oppose efforts to turn classrooms into political indoctrination centers—and PDE is answering the call.

I invite you to visit our website, defendinged.org, for additional details on our activities and the ways that PDE is fighting for our kids. (While you’re there, check out our IndoctriNation map to see what outrages are occurring in your area.)

PDE recently commissioned the first ever national public opinion poll to ask detailed questions of American voters about efforts to impose Critical Race Theory and a “social justice” curriculum on K-12 schools. The survey results made the national media (including *National Journal*, *The Federalist*, and *Red State*) sit up and take notice.

The poll’s highlights included:

- 80% opposed using the classroom to promote political activism, and 64% “strongly” opposed this.
- 75% opposed teaching there is no such thing as biological sex, and that people should choose whatever gender they prefer for themselves. Only 18% supported teaching such concepts.
- 74% were somewhat or strongly opposed to teaching students that white people are inherently privileged and black and other people of color are inherently oppressed. Only 6% of respondents favored schools assigning white students the status of “privileged” and

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non-white students the status of “oppressed”—versus 88% opposed, including 78% strongly opposed.

The poll demonstrated the widespread disapproval of the destructive fads that are ravaging American education. Even more encouraging, respondents indicated that this intolerant political activism has consequences:

- 70% said they would consider removing their child from a politicized school and finding an alternative, whether in homeschooling or at another school that taught social, cultural, and race-based topics more traditionally.
- 57% would be less inclined to reelect a school board member if he or she voted to shift from traditional social studies to teaching social, cultural, and race-based topics along the lines of Critical Race Theory.
- 57% of respondents want their governor to oppose this new teaching focus.

In huge numbers, the public agrees with us!

The politicization of the classroom and the stoking of racial hostilities among children—*children*—cannot stand. Americans disturbed by these destructive developments must fight back. The leadership and membership of Parents Defending Education come from diverse races, religions, economic backgrounds, and political orientations—but we all agree that it is time to join together and stop the madness in our schools.

We know that these problems can’t and shouldn’t be solved in Washington. That’s why Parents Defending Education is seeking to address these issues on state and local levels by creating a network of parents united in defense of the quality and content of their children’s education.

Our movement is also about community. About paying attention to what is happening in our neighborhoods, our towns and cities, and our country.

We all need to start seeing what’s going on in our backyards—and in the school down the street. Parents everywhere need to care about local government again.

It’s up to us—up to you and me and concerned parents and citizens across this great country—to stop this radical assault on our children’s education... because our children are the future of our country.

Will you partner with Parents Defending Education as we fight back against the politicization of America’s classrooms?

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Your tax-deductible contribution today of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, or whatever your means allow will help concerned parents educate themselves, get organized, shine the cleansing light of publicity on the problem, and begin the necessary process of restoring normality and sanity to our K-12 schools.

As a mother, I refuse to cede the field to those who would destroy American education. Working together, we can save our country. I hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



Nicole Neily
President

P.S. With the new academic year underway, it's now more important than ever to stop schools from getting politicized. Will you help us reclaim our schools from the radicals who are turning our classrooms into indoctrination factories? Your contribution of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, or whatever your means allow will empower, inform, and engage parents of school-age children as we fight to save American education from those who would destroy it.