

Action Item No.
Alabama State Board of Education
August 12, 2021
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ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION DECLARING THE PRESERVATION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND NON-DISCRIMINATION IN ALABAMA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education believes that all individuals are endowed with equal God given inalienable rights, ~~without respect to race or sex~~ of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and

WHEREAS, divisive concepts that impute fault, blame, a tendency to oppress others, or the need to feel guilt or anguish to persons solely because of their race or sex violate the premises of individual rights, equal opportunity, and individual merit, and therefore have no place in professional development for teachers, administrators, or other employees of the public educational system of the State of Alabama, and

WHEREAS, for the same reasons, such divisive concepts should not be taught to students in the public educational system of the State of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alabama State Board of Education affirms that ~~we the following divisive concepts~~ will not ~~support, or impart, any K-12 public education resources or standards intended~~ be used to indoctrinate K-12 students in social or political ideologies that promote one race or sex above another: 1. That one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex. 2. That this state or the United States is fundamentally racist or sexist. 3. That an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously. 4. That an individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race. 5. That members of one race cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race, meaning no one can or should be colorblind. 6. That an individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex. 7. That an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex. 8. That fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex, or to members of a race or sex because of their race or sex. 9. That any individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex. 10. That meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular race to oppress another race. 11. That with respect to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to, the authentic founding principles of the United States and our founding documents, which include liberty and equality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes that slavery and racism are betrayals of the founding principles of the United States, including

freedom, equality, justice, and humanity, and that individuals living today should not be punished or discriminated against because of past actions committed by members of the same race or sex, but that we should move forward to create a better future together; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education ~~intends to will~~ adopt rules and regulations specifically prohibiting each local board of education from offering K-12 instruction intended to indoctrinate students in social or political ideologies that promote one race or sex above another. All K-12 instruction in Alabama Course of Study standards required for graduation, professional development, and other activities shall be in accordance with Alabama Administrative Code and the most current Alabama State Board of Education resolution regarding intellectual freedom and non-discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education intends that no federal grant ~~or private gift~~ shall be applied for or accepted by the Department ~~or a political subdivision~~, if such grant ~~or gift~~ requires or encourages the teaching of the ~~divisive~~ concepts or implementation of the practices contrary to the sentiments expressed in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That ~~the Alabama State Board of Education believes that~~ no state education agency, local education agency, or school ~~should shall~~ train any administrator, teacher, staff member, or employee, or teach any student, to believe ~~that one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex; that members of one race or sex cannot, or should not attempt to, treat others disrespectfully due to race or sex; or that fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex, or to members of a race or sex solely or partly because of their race or sex~~the divisive concepts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education values and ~~promotes requires~~ honest and healthy age appropriate research, debate, and dialogue as important and valuable to the educational experience and that such should not be infringed upon so long as it is responsible, balanced and respectful. Rather, students and educators should be encouraged to engage in the marketplace of ideas, ~~subject to developmental appropriateness~~presenting all perspectives on controversial issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education acknowledges the right to express differing opinions, foster and defend intellectual honesty, engage in freedom of inquiry, and honor freedom of speech as required by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in the public schools of Alabama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education intends to adopt rules and regulations codifying the tenets of this resolution into the Alabama Administrative Code as provided by law.

Done this 12th day of August 2021