

Corona-Norco Unified School District

**2021-22
Resolution No. 41**

**DISTRICT STANCE ON
CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

WHEREAS, in areas throughout the country, special interest groups have lobbied state executive and legislative branches of government and governing boards of public education institutions to implement policy and/or laws that would ban the teaching of what has been labeled as “Critical Race Theory”;

WHEREAS, many scholars have questioned adoption of the phrase “critical race theory” by special interest groups to include such concepts as diversity, cultural tolerance, equity, and inclusion as part of efforts to prohibit teaching Critical Race Theory in schools;

WHEREAS, legal scholars who developed the analytical underpinning of Critical Race Theory had, as its specific purpose, examination of law and policy that, in implementation, or, on its face, had disparate impacts on communities of color;

WHEREAS, the Corona-Norco Unified School District does not have, as part of its curriculum, any component, either directly or indirectly, related to the teaching of Critical Race Theory as that concept was originally developed by legal scholars and taught in law schools, as described above;

WHEREAS, the Corona-Norco Unified School District will not adopt any curriculum nor engage in any instruction that has, as its purpose, sowing dissension among students;

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6144 titled Teaching Controversial Issues declares that it is the responsibility of public schools to educate students to be informed, conscientious citizens, capable of self-direction and critical thinking;

WHEREAS, Board Policy 6144 also states that in order for young people to become effective citizens in our democracy, students must be given the opportunity to develop the ability to gain information about public issues, to evaluate facts, and to express themselves through discussion, writing, and the ballot;

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the concept of academic freedom and supports the importance of education of students in democratic traditions to inspire meaningful awareness of, and respect for, the Constitution and Bill of Rights and to instill appreciation of the value of individual personality and social responsibility;

WHEREAS, teachers are encouraged to study, investigate, present, and interpret objectively facts and ideas concerning man, society, and physical and biological works;

WHEREAS, the Corona-Norco Unified School District Board of Education is committed to ensuring the academic and social-emotional well-being of ALL students;

WHEREAS, the District recently approved the Local Control Accountability Plan, which outlines specific steps, actions, and funding sources directed at improving outcomes for ALL students;

WHEREAS, the District approved a Strategic Plan 2021-26, which declares our Mission, Vision, and Values and outlines the District’s Strategic Goals;

WHEREAS, the District is, and will continue to be, an institution that stands against racism, provides equitable access to education for all, and practices inclusivity for all students;

WHEREAS, we hold true to the values of diversity and inclusion, ensuring each and every member of our school community will thrive, these values will not be compromised. Acts of discrimination or racism against any member of our school community will not be tolerated;

WHEREAS, as a community of educators and scholars, we hold a special responsibility to lead by modeling civility, displaying empathy, inspiring hope, and embracing justice as we hold true to the values of diversity of thought and inclusion;

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that the District’s educational program may sometimes include instruction related to controversial issues that may arouse strong reactions based on personal values and beliefs, political philosophy, culture, religion, or other influences; and

WHEREAS, instruction concerning such topics shall be relevant to the adopted course of study, curricular goals, and standards, and should be designed to develop students’ critical thinking skills, ability to discriminate between fact and opinion, respect for others, and understanding and tolerance of diverse points of view;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Corona-Norco Unified School District will continue to offer an array of programs for its students described in our LCAP and Strategic Plan;
2. That the Corona-Norco Unified School District will not include in its curriculum, nor in its instruction of students, components intended to foster or promote dissension among students;
3. That the Corona-Norco Unified School District will promote the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion in its programs;
4. That the Corona-Norco Unified School District shall continue to stand against racism in any form.

Adopted by the Governing Board of the Corona-Norco Unified School District on August 3, 2021, by the following vote of the Board:

AYES _____

NOES _____

ABSTAIN _____

Bill Pollock, President
Board of Education