

# Teacher's Truth Matters for Students Toolkit

EDUCOLOR



A resource for teachers who want [#teachtruth](#) in an age of censorship and misinformation. Thoughtfully brought to you by the folks at EduColor and The Expectations Project.



## What's going on?

The CRT bans occurring across the country are not rooted in a concern for students or their access to quality education. They are the result of people in power causing fear in order to push forward their political ideas that are racist and not about children. These CRT bans are about criminalizing anything that questions history, power, and race. This means that teaching the truth about history, which empowers students to understand the past and dream of a better future, is seen as a threat to people who seek to maintain control through the status quo.



## Why does teaching truth matter?

As professional educators, we have a deep ethical responsibility not to knowingly give false or distorted information to our students. We want to help students develop a full and honest understanding of history and current realities of the world they are inheriting. We want students to have an honest view of history and the society they must change and lead. Teaching lies distorts students' views of themselves and the world they inherit. Anti-truth movements harm all students, but especially target Black students and students from other historically marginalized communities.

## What can I do to fight back?

### Connect!

Find other people/groups who want to teach the truth so you can support each other.



### Learn!

Find current, accurate information on the anti-CRT policies affecting your specific setting.



### Advocate!

Start with local administrators, union or professional association representatives.



### Teach!

Remember there is still so much you can teach. Keep up the great work!



## Who can I talk to?

After speaking with your department chair, reach out to the curriculum director. Both of those positions have authority in determining curricular content. If that yields no results, then you take your ideas to the school leaders, either the assistant principal or the principal. If you need to go beyond that, you can consider going to the city's school committee or school board. If you teach at a private school, you can attend a board of trustees meeting and state your case there. You can also join advocacy or subject-specific professional organizations. There, you can further this advocacy work at the national level.

**KEY TERMS:** **Anti-racism:** A proactive approach to policies, practices, and procedures to promote racial equity. **Critical Race Theory:** An academic framework for critically examining the extent to which racism is embedded in U.S. law. **Culturally Responsive Education:** A research based method of teaching that integrates student's lived experiences, cultures, and languages into curriculum. **Equity:** An approach to education that ensures everyone has access to the resources they need to be successful. **1619 Project:** A journalism initiative developed by Nikole Hannah-Jones, which seeks to center the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans in the American historical narrative.