

Support the Right to Learn



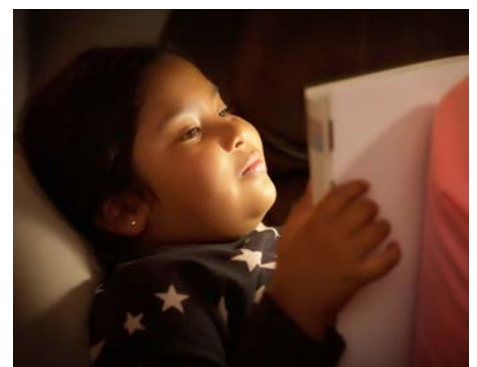
To the point: Regardless of a child's racial or ethnic identity, all students deserve the right to learn the full story of America's diverse history. What makes the United States great, in part, is that Americans can celebrate our triumphs and learn from the mistakes of our past. Instead of turning schools into political battlegrounds where children can become collateral damage, we should focus on ensuring that every student has the support and resources to learn, grow and thrive, inside and outside the classroom.

FACT: 75% of Americans believe that banning books and limiting educators from teaching about the history of race and racism is about political gain—not the best interest of children.¹ Parents of all backgrounds want an honest education for their children, classrooms where students are loved and fully accepted, and curricula that prepares all children to succeed. When we ban or restrict teaching and learning about history, civil rights, and race, we undermine our children's ability to learn how to navigate complex situations in our society. We should remember the goal that everyone shares: to provide our children with the best education possible, allowing educators to teach with honesty, accuracy, and integrity and allowing students to learn and practice healthy communication even through disagreement.

FACT: True patriotism means celebrating our nation's successes while learning from its mistakes. Parents of all backgrounds try to teach their children to acknowledge and learn from mistakes. Children should be taught about the extraordinary progress on race in the past 50 years—and the inequalities that persist today.

FACT: Students learn best in environments where they feel safe enough to talk and learn about complex issues. Students learn best in environments with low levels of fear and high levels of trust.² Creating a supportive environment in which students can encounter and learn about complex issues benefits all students, and helps students from all backgrounds feel welcome. This ensures schools can be hubs for learning and growth for *all* students. On the other hand, classroom censorship undermines trust by preventing students from learning how to discuss complex issues in a productive way.

FACT: Our focus should be giving all of our children the best education possible. Every child, no matter their background, deserves a high-quality education that prepares them for success. Censoring classroom lessons wastes educators' valuable time. The issue can also pit parents and teachers against one another, when they should be collaborating to provide students with the best education possible.



1. Ipsos. (2022). Most parents want classrooms to be places of learning, not political battlegrounds. Public poll by Ipsos for ParentsTogether. https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2022-09/Parents_Together_Topline_Final_9.19.pdf

2. Tschannen-Moran, Megan. (2004). What's trust got to do with it? The role of faculty and principal trust in fostering student achievement. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the University Council for Educational Administration, Kansas City, MO, p 4-5.