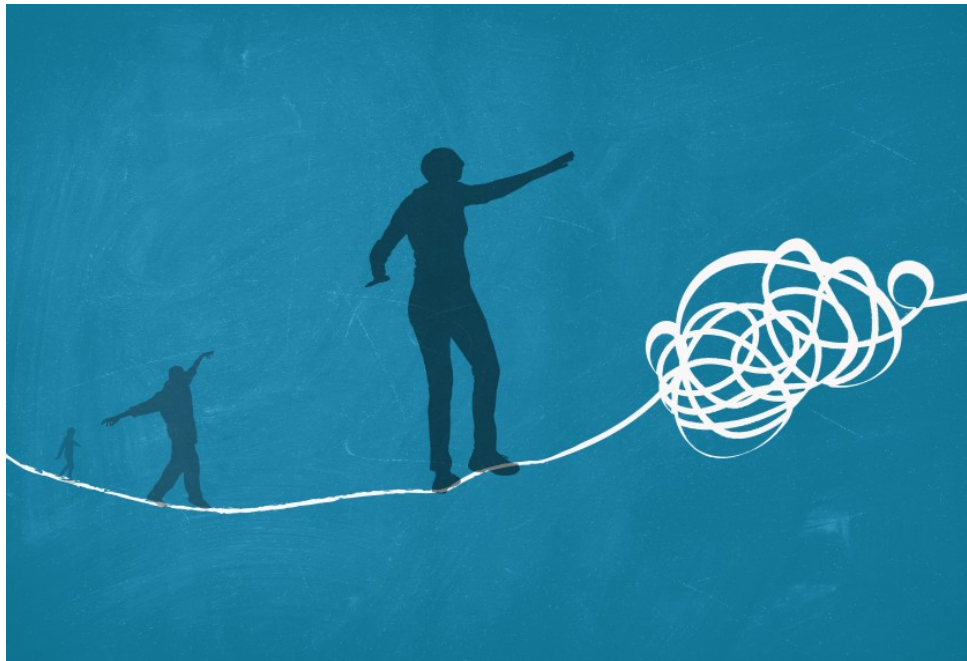


SCHOOL & DISTRICT MANAGEMENT

Local School Boards Are Banning Critical Race Theory. Here's How That Looks in 7 Districts



By [Stephen Sawchuk](#) — August 25, 2021 ⌚ 15 min read



An associate editor who writes for Education Week made contact with Director Berg after doing CRT and schools searches on the web. What follows is only the part of the story in which Berg was interviewed. The website for the east coast online news group is:

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/local-school-boards-are-also-banning-lessons-on-race-heres-how-that-looks-in-7-districts/2021/08>

South Kitsap, Wash: The difficulty of definitions

When confusion about Washington's training bill hit the South Kitsap district, school board member John Berg set out to try to research it and to determine which aspects the board might need to take a position on. As he's learned, though, even the very act of trying to define critical race theory to the approval of all can be a perilous undertaking.

At least one resident had [objected in the local paper to aspects of the district's training](#), which allegedly referenced concepts like white supremacy and white fragility, and spoke positively about the Black Lives Matter movement.

Here is the direct link to that letter:

<https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/opinion/readers/2021/03/26/disagree-whats-being-taught-equity/7019467002/>

"We were getting inquiries about it, and the superintendent says, 'We're not teaching CRT in the schools.' And I said, 'Well, then, we need to say so,'" Berg said.

Berg does believe that hard history should be taught and believes in equality of opportunity, but is uncomfortable with the idea of equity, which he defined as trying to force the same set of outcomes for students.

There's not a lot of us, and we're not going anywhere, so I need to know we matter."
Joy Stanford, Black parent and substitute teacher, Peninsula, Wash.

"I see no problem with equity of opportunity; some come with advantages and less advantages and the school needs to compensate. If a student is homeless, they don't have a place to study at night, or if the language at school is not the primary language in the home, the students are going to need a little bit of extra attention," he said. "I have no problem with that, and I've got no problem with teaching the history of the United States with all its blemishes. Teach about the Trail of Tears, the Ku Klux Klan, and the race riots."

But, he added, "we have made tremendous progress in race relations," and the thrust of the conversation about race seems to ignore that, he said.

He hoped [his draft resolution walked that fine line](#): While it opposed teaching that "America is an inherently racist country with white supremacists maintaining power through law, culture, and institutional practices," it acknowledged that "injustices committed upon members of various groups, based upon race, sex, gender, religion, etc., are a part of United States history, and that history needs to be taught accurately in order to avoid repeating those injustices."

Instead, he said, it ended up polarizing the community. The board meeting had to be moved to the high school gym to accommodate speakers; conservatives lined up to support the resolution, while

many teachers condemned the resolution as an attempt to control their teaching. The resolution failed by a 3-2 vote.

Berg says he'll attempt to amend similar language into the board's governance policies, which are currently being rewritten.

"I will try to introduce some dos and don'ts of who we want to teach the students, and what we want them to experience and to achieve. We don't want them to feel like they're oppressors or to feel guilty because of the class they belong to," he said. "And I think that's reasonable. **Some of the folks say that's not enough, that we need some teeth to go after the teachers who teach CRT."**