



NEA & CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Frequently Asked Questions

Did the NEA pass a resolution in support of teaching CRT?

One of the new business items at the 2021 NEA Representative Assembly established a task force of educators to review a long list of topics including services to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of students following the pandemic; culturally inclusive curriculum; and funding for appropriate class size and staffing levels in Pre-K through Higher Education.

Members of the task force have not even been chosen at this point. However, because critical race theory (CRT) is one of the items on the list to be reviewed, some media reports indicate promoting CRT is the purpose of the task force. Delegates who attended the RA understand that is not the case. They can attest that the purpose of the task force is to recommend a clear vision on what must be included to create safe, just and equitable schools for all students.

What is UEA and NEA's position on what should be taught?

As professionals, educators believe that all students deserve **honesty in education**, and it is educators—not pundits or politicians—who will know how to best design age-appropriate lessons for students.

Educators must continue to ensure their students learn the complete and honest history of our country so that they have the skills needed to better understand problems in our society and develop solutions to those problems. That includes teaching about the greatness of our country, as well as the moments when our actions as a nation failed to include all Americans in “We the People.”

Is Critical Race Theory taught in Utah schools?

Not in Utah public K-12 schools. What is taught in our classrooms is curriculum established by school districts based on Utah State Board of Education standards. The standards are developed with input from professional educators and the citizens of Utah. Any future changes should continue that tradition and must be in the best interest of all students and not serve a political purpose.

It is important to remember that viewing our nation's history through the lens of critical thinking does not mean that educators are teaching critical race theory. Instead, it means that our educators are striving for our next generation to learn from our collective past shortcomings to ensure a better and brighter future.

What should I say to parents concerned that their children are learning CRT?

If parents are concerned, encourage them to talk to their children's teachers — visit their classrooms. Utah's teachers are friends, neighbors and family members who share values with the parents of students they serve. Those values include loving this country through understanding its history, the good and the bad, and being productive citizens who have the skills to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Who attends the NEA RA?

The NEA Representative Assembly is the world's largest deliberative body; where over 8,000 delegates vote on the issues brought before them. Utah had 92 delegates in 2021. Any member may run to be a delegate.

Disclaimer: This publication is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for specific legal or other professional advice. If you have specific questions about your legal or contractual rights, contact your local UniServ director. This guidance will be updated periodically based on new information and guidance, so please refer to myUEA.org/equity or the most current information.