

To: Member School Board Members and Superintendents of Schools

From: Bob Rader, Executive Director

May 21, 2021

Re: State Board of Education Equity Policy Statement

The State Board has updated its Equity Policy Statement (attached). Below are thoughts on the Statement and my concern over developments in other states:

According to a recent article in *USA Today* (May 13), legislators in several states, have introduced bills that would prohibit schools from teaching 'divisive,' 'racist' or 'sexist' concepts. According to the article, the "focus of these bills is to stamp out conversations about race and equity."

These attacks on "critical race theory," are a new part of the culture wars. While disparaging the ideas of systemic racism, white privilege and, according to the *USA Today* article, "how the taint of racism still affects Black Americans" these legislators ignore history and the way in which discrimination still affects our society.

CABE proudly supports the State Board of Education's Culturally Responsive Position Statement.

As CABE's positions, adopted by our Delegate Assembly, the work of its Board of Directors and that of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee make clear, our Association believes in cultural competency, respect for the many cultures which strengthen our democratic society and that all children are entitled to both equal educational opportunities and to be treated equitably.

The social justice protests of last summer and the anti-Asian hate we have seen recently, surely provide any needed

evidence that to move forward our society must respect the history of all of our people and encourage all of our students to be proud of their backgrounds and our country.

The State Board's Position Statement reaffirms its "continuing commitment that sufficient, specialized and appropriate resources must be provided to close the achievement gaps between high-performing and low-performing students, males and females, and students of different racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups."

What could be more American and patriotic than that?

Robert Rader

Executive Director

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

[81 Wolcott Hill Road](#)

[Wethersfield, CT 06109](#)

w- 860-571-7446

c- 860-712-4749

Twitter: @BobRader18

www.cabe.org

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