

House Bill 327 stops schools from being allowed to teach "divisive concepts."

The problem is HB 327 defines "divisive concepts" really broadly. This means that almost any topic that has to do with someone's race, sex (and more) can be considered a "divisive concept." Some of the topics that are considered "divisive concepts" are:

SYSTEMIC RACISM

"Systemic (Structural) racism" is a term that describes the type of racism that is embedded in the way laws, rules, and systems were made, in the past and present, to oppress people of color in America. HB 327 says that systemic racism is a "divisive concept," and that teachers cannot talk about the United States as being fundamentally racist or sexist.

PRIVILEGE BASED ON RACE, GENDER, ETC.

"White privilege" is a term that describes the advantages that white people have in a society where there is racial inequality and injustice. Similarly, "male privilege" describes the advantages that men have in a society that oppresses women. HB 327 says that the idea that people have certain privileges based on their race, gender, etc. is a "divisive concept."

IMPLICIT BIAS

"Implicit bias" is a term from psychology that describes when we unconsciously have a particular attitude towards someone, or unconsciously associate them with a stereotype. HB 327 says that the idea that someone has certain biases because of their race, class, gender, etc. is a "divisive concept." The bill also says that the idea that someone is naturally racist, sexist etc., whether consciously or unconsciously, is a "divisive concept."

"I DON'T SEE COLOR"

Being "colorblind" when it comes to race, or saying, "I don't see color" is a way that many Americans describe the way they treat everyone equally, no matter what race they are. However, being "colorblind" doesn't recognize the fact that people have very different experiences in America depending on their race and the way they look. HB 327 tries to promote "colorblindness" by saying that the idea that you should consider someone's experience of their race, gender, etc. when interacting with them is a "divisive concept."

THE MYTH OF MERITOCRACY

A meritocracy is a type of society where the people who have the most power are the people who have the most ability, like skills or intelligence. The myth of meritocracy is the idea that the United States is a meritocracy. It is a myth because people in America are affected by factors such as race and class. People of color in America are harmed by the myth of meritocracy, because it blames people of color and not the systems that oppress them for struggling to achieve equality. HB 327 says that the myth of meritocracy is a "divisive concept" and that teachers cannot talk about how the idea of meritocracy and traits like working hard can be used to oppress people of color.

TEACH BOTH SIDES OF HISTORY

HB 327 says that teachers have to teach "controversial aspects of history" "impartially." This means that teachers can only talk about the oppression of a group of people in history in a way that doesn't say that one side was right or wrong.

HB 327 doesn't allow schools to accept any funding that helps teachers teach any of the divisive concepts.

If a teacher or school district breaks these rules on purpose, the Ohio department of education will not give money to that school as punishment.

HB 327 is an even bigger version of a previous bill in Ohio, HB 322, which doesn't allow schools to teach anything about race or sex that is considered controversial. What makes HB 327 even bigger than HB 322 is that it doesn't allow K-12 schools, colleges, or even professional development programs (like education for police departments) to teach about race, racism, or other topics that the state considers controversial.

STATUS

6/10/21 - Referred to the State and Local Government Committee in the House
5/25/21 - Introduced to the Ohio House

House Bill (HB) 616 doesn't allow schools to teach controversial and "racist" topics in school. HB 616 also doesn't allow schools to teach students in grades K-3 anything about sexual orientation or gender identity. For grades 4-12, schools are not allowed to teach students anything about sexual orientation or gender identity that's not "age-appropriate," according to the Ohio government.

HB 616 says that schools aren't allowed to teach any concepts that are controversial or racist. Some of the topics that the bill says are controversial and racist are:

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Critical race theory is a theory about race and racism that is usually taught at the college-level, but almost never to anyone in high school or elementary school.

INTERSECTIONAL THEORY

Intersectional theory is the idea that people have a lot of different identities, like their gender or race, and these different identities are all important to understanding someone's individual experiences.

THE 1619 PROJECT

The 1619 Project is a project created by writers at the New York Times to talk about the effects of slavery on America.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION LEARNING OUTCOMES

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training teaches people about unconscious bias, stereotypes, microaggressions, and more. DEI training often helps people from all different backgrounds feel comfortable and accepted by the other people around them.

INHERITED RACIAL GUILT

"Inherited racial guilt" is a term that is often used by conservatives to describe white guilt. Conservatives use this term to say that they don't want students to learn about white privilege and white guilt in schools.

TEACH BOTH SIDES OF HISTORY

HB 327 says that teachers have to teach "controversial aspects of history" impartially. This means that teachers can only talk about the oppression of a group of people in history in a way that doesn't say that one side was right or wrong.

HB 616 says that no schools can have classes for teachers that promote any controversial or racist concepts.

If a teacher is caught breaking these rules, they might be suspended from teaching, or may not be allowed to teach again.

If a school district gets caught breaking these rules, the department of education in Ohio won't give the school money as punishment.

STATUS

5/17/22 - Referred to the State and Local Government Committee in the House
4/4/22 - Introduced to the Ohio House

HB 99 is a preexisting bill that lets school employees carry guns in schools if they complete a specific training program. The bill was recently revised and signed by Gov. Mike DeWine in June 2022. These revisions reduced the number of hours of training that school employees need in order to carry guns in schools. Now, school employees need just 24 hours of training to carry a gun in a school safety zone.

HB 99 is the only bill in the United States that allows teachers to carry guns in schools with only 24 hours of training. Here are the most important parts of HB 99:

SHORT TRAINING TIME

- The number of hours of training that teachers need to carry guns at school decreased from *700 hours* to *just 24 hours*. To compare, police officers need 700 hours of training to carry guns at schools.
- HB 99 says that the instruction and training for school employees cannot be more than 24 hours. This means that school employees can be trained to carry guns at school for 24 hours *at most*.
- School employees can carry guns at school with as little as 4 hours of scenario-based or simulation training exercises. This means that school employees can be allowed to carry guns at school with only *4 hours of experience* in the types of scenarios they might have to use guns in.
- Every year, school employees can become requalified to carry guns at school after 8 hours of training *at most*. To compare, teachers need 180 hours of training to renew their teaching licenses.

USES SCHOOL FUNDS

- The school board of each school, or whatever group gives school employees permission to carry deadly weapons at school, have to pay all the fees for the training.

FLEXIBILITY

- HB 99 does not require schools to train teachers to carry guns
- Schools have the option to train employees to carry guns at school with 24 hours of training or less.
- Schools can create their own training programs, but they have to include a specific set of topics like, “trauma and first aid care,” and “tactics of responding to critical incidents in school.” Schools have to get their training programs approved by the school safety and crisis center.

Some school districts have already stated that they will not be using HB 99 to allow guns in schools with minimal training.

Here is an early list of school districts that have said they will not be arming teachers:

Akron City, Beachwood City, Cincinnati Public Schools, Cleveland Municipal, Columbus City School District, Dayton City, Grandview Heights Schools, Lorain City, Toledo City, Chagrin Falls Exempted Village, Orange City, Solon City, Berkshire Local, Chardon Local, Kenston Local, West Geauga Local, Springfield Local, Woodridge Local, and Twinsburg City.

STATUS

Effective on 9/12/22, appropriations (budgeting) effective on 6/13/22
6/1/22 - Passed in the Ohio Senate
11/17/21 Passed in the Ohio House

Just before midnight on June 1st, 2022, Republican house representatives added the language from a bill that bans transgender people from playing sports at school to HB 151, a bill that revises Ohio Teacher Residency Program.

BANS TRANSGENDER WOMEN FROM PLAYING WOMEN'S SPORTS

HB 151 now says that no one who is assigned male at birth can play on sports teams or in sports competitions that are only for people who were assigned female at birth. This means that HB 151 completely bans transgender women from playing women's sports.

MAKES PARTICIPANTS IN SCHOOL SPORTS PROVE THEIR SEX

The bills also says that if there are disagreements about a student's sex, the student has to be examined by a doctor to prove their sex. Additionally, the doctor has to determine the student's sex based on their reproductive anatomy, the levels of testosterone they have in their body, and their genetic makeup. A doctor is not allowed to use any other information to determine the student's gender.

BAN APPLIES TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND PRIVATE COLLEGES

HB 151 says that state institutions of higher education and private colleges that are members of national athletic associations cannot allow people who were assigned male at birth to play on sports teams for people who were assigned female at birth.

DOESN'T ALLOW ORGANIZATIONS TO PROTEST SINGLE-SEX SPORTS OR TEAMS

HB 151 says that no organization, agency, athletic association connected to the state, and no political subdivision of the state is allowed to complain or fight against a school that that has sports teams that are only for people who were assigned female sex or male sex at birth.

In addition to banning transgender women from women's sports, HB 151 also cuts the time it takes to get an alternative resident educator license in half. The "alternative resident educator license" is a type of teaching license that someone can get after completing a local mentorship program. The alternative resident educator license is for people who didn't get a teaching license through a traditional teacher preparation program. For example, Latin teachers need alternative resident educator licenses because they cannot get traditional teaching licenses for teaching Latin.

Here are the most important changes to the alternative resident educator license:

- It used to take 4 years to get an Alternative Resident Educator License. With the new changes to HB 151, it only takes two years.
- Alternative resident educator licenses went from being valid for four years, to being valid for two years.
- People with an alternative resident educator license can get a professional educator license after two years of teaching with the alternative license.

HB 454 is a bill that does not allow doctors or any other healthcare workers to provide gender affirming procedures to anyone under 18 years old. The bill also makes teachers, nurses, counselors, and other school staff have to tell a student's parents if the student is experiencing gender dysphoria or exploring their gender identity.

BANS DOCTORS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS FROM GIVING GENDER AFFIRMING PROCEDURES TO UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS, INCLUDING:

Hormone treatment • Gender affirming surgery (for the genitals) • Breast reduction surgery • Facial feminization surgery • Liposuction • Voice surgery • Hair reconstruction • Prescription drugs that change someone's physical or anatomical features in a way that is different from the sex they were assigned at birth • Puberty blocking drugs

BANS DOCTORS AND OTHER HEALTHCARE WORKERS FROM REFERRING ANYONE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD TO ANOTHER DOCTOR FOR GENDER AFFIRMING PROCEDURES

REQUIRES TEACHERS, NURSES, COUNSELORS, OR OTHER SCHOOL STAFF TO TELL A STUDENT'S PARENTS IF THE STUDENT IS EXPERIENCING GENDER DYSPHORIA OR EXPLORING THEIR GENDER IDENTITY.

This means that it will be mandatory for school employees to report a minor's exploration of their gender to their parents, and this requirement for mandatory reporting could be especially harmful and dangerous for kids who come from transphobic or homophobic families or communities

DOESN'T ALLOW HOSPITALS RUN BY THE STATE OR HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE STATE TO INCLUDE GENDER AFFIRMING CARE FOR PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

This means that someone's options for where they can get gender affirming care is extremely limited by HB 454, since people can't get gender affirming care from any person/place owned, run, or employed by the government.

DOESN'T ALLOW GENDER AFFIRMING CARE TO BE COVERED BY HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PEOPLE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

Not allowing gender affirming care to be covered by health insurance or the medicaid program creates even barriers to gender affirming care for low-income individuals.

DOCTORS, MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CAN GET THEIR LICENSE REVOKED FOR PROVIDING GENDER AFFIRMING CARE TO SOMEONE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD.