

CALL IT WHAT IT IS

CLASSROOM CENSORSHIP

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A number of bills have been introduced at the Georgia General Assembly that are direct attacks on the public education system

These bills claim to "protect" educational freedom by prohibiting "divisive concepts," but are based in censoring the type of materials educators, librarians, and educational partners can have in classrooms and learning spaces.

Furthermore, they are based in anti "Critical Race Theory" rhetoric that has spread through the country, when critical race theory is not taught in K-12 schools

"Censorship, like charity, should begin at home, but, unlike charity, it should end there".

Clare Boothe Luce

The Bills

SB 375

- State government mandates schools, state agencies and certain local government entities prevent the use of curricula or training programs that promote “certain concepts” aka, anything related to racism, equity, gender.
- Censorship bill

SB 377

- State government prohibits state agencies and certain local government entities to prevent the use of curricula or training programs that promote “certain concepts”
- Directed at University System of Georgia and The Technical College System of Georgia.
- Censorship bill

HB 888

- Bans Georgia schools from teaching or discussing racism
- Teaching accurate and documented history
- Allowing class credit for policy internships
- Discussing equity
- Would strip 20% of funding from districts found in violation
- Censorship bill

HB 1084

- Prevents the use of and reliance upon curricula or training programs which act upon, promote, or encourage certain concept
- Censorship bill

- **SB 226**

- Book-banning and restricting academic freedom in public schools
- Would censor classrooms and intimidate teachers, librarians and administrators
- Censorship bill

Are these bills *that bad*?
They don't sound so *bad*.

Let's be clear

These bills are censoring:

Discussions of Race

Accurate History

Equity

Systemic Inequality

These aren't "divisive concepts"

These are lived realities

Georgia's public schools have been underfunded for decades, and last year, legislators slashed nearly

\$1 billion from public education

These bills are part of an effort to defund schools in the name of partisan politics, instead of investing in our students' futures by funding crucial resources like technology, mental health support, transportation, support staff, and more.

Not only do these bills harm schools' ability to provide every student with an honest, quality education, **they could slash nearly 1.7 BILLION dollars of funding from schools and stop students from accessing the resources they need to succeed.**

Schools and educators are facing extreme hardships stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, and legislators are responding by threatening taking hundreds of millions of dollars away from our students' futures and adding undue, expensive burdens to educators and school districts.

**Hiding racism and threatening
budget cuts runs completely
counter to the vision of an
education system that values
teachers and students**

**We Say
"NO"**

WHAT YOU CAN DO

RIGHT NOW

***Call your state representatives:**

- Find your representative here:
<https://openstates.org>

***Amplify the message**

- Encourage stakeholders in your community to contact legislators
 - Write an Op-ed
- Use your social media to shed light on these bills

***Share your story**

Have a story? Want to speak out?
Contact us at writewithus@deepcenter.org

Here's what you can say to your representatives

"Hi Representative/ Senator _____

My name is _____ and I live in your district, district _____. I am a (student/parent of a student/teacher/product of the public education system).

Today I am (calling /emailing) in regards to the number of classroom censorship bills including HB 888, HB 1084, SB 375, and SB 377.

Not only do these bills harm schools' ability to provide every student with an honest, quality education, **they could slash nearly 1.7 BILLION dollars of funding from schools and stop students from accessing the resources they need to succeed.**

Schools and educators are facing extreme hardships stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, and legislators are responding by threatening taking hundreds of millions of dollars away from our students' futures and adding undue, expensive burdens to educators and school districts.

Can I count on you to vote NO? "

Social Media Examples

Use your social media platforms to highlight the issue and encourage your community to speak up

Twitter or Facebook: We are saying NO to a number of classroom censorship bills including HB 888, HB 1084, SB 375, and SB 377. Censorship helps no one.

Twitter or Facebook: **Censorship bills harm schools' ability to provide every student with an honest, quality education and could slash nearly 1.7 BILLION dollars of funding from schools and stop students from necessary resources. We say NO.**

Twitter and Facebook: Schools and educators are facing extreme hardships stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, and legislators are responding by threatening taking hundreds of millions of dollars away from our students' futures and adding undue, expensive burdens to educators and school districts. Say NO to censorship bills

Twitter and Facebook: **Trust our teachers and local schools! Teachers have always been there for our children. From the pandemic until now, teachers have been leaders for our community to lean on. We say NO to censorship bills!**

Hashtags: #HB888 #HB1084 #SB375 #SB377 #Teachthetruth

**It's Time to Demand Accurate, Honest,
and Fully Funded Public Education**