



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**State of Michigan  
State Board of Education**

**Resolution on Teaching Comprehensive History**

**WHEREAS** Senate Bill 460 was introduced in May 2021 and, if passed and signed into law, would prohibit Michigan's public schools and public school districts from teaching the university curriculum known as "critical race theory," any part of the New York Times 1619 Project, or other "anti-American and racist theories" and, in the event that a public school or district did so, would require the imposition of a 5% deduction to the entity's state school funding;

**WHEREAS** House Bill 5097 was introduced in June 2021 and, if passed and signed into law, would stipulate that "anything that could be understood as implicit race or gender stereotyping" could not be included in academic standards adopted by the State Board of Education or curricula adopted by school districts;

**WHEREAS** institutional racism has been declared a public health crisis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Medical Association, 18 states including Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and 128 U.S. cities;

**WHEREAS** racism has been embedded in our institutions since 1619 when the first ships carrying enslaved Africans arrived on America's shores;

**WHEREAS** students should learn the full breadth of our country's multifaceted and complex history including acts of our federal and state governments, which include chattel slavery of Africans and African Americans, forced relocation of Indigenous People, detainment of Japanese Americans in internment camps, and state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation (i.e., Jim Crow laws);

**WHEREAS** teachers have the right and responsibility to teach that multifaceted and complex history, including the history of race, racism and other biases, which are inextricably connected to the constitutional and statutory history in our country;

**WHEREAS** these bills, if passed and signed into law, would undermine local school districts' ability to determine the most appropriate curricula to teach Michigan's K-12 Standards for Social Studies as well as teachers' ability to discuss race, racism, and other biases in their classrooms as critical elements of our country's history;

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Council for the Social Studies (MCSS), the Michigan Council for History Education (MCHE), Michigan Council for Teachers of English (MCTE), Michigan State Social Studies Supervisors Association (MSSHA), and the Michigan Association of College Teacher Educators (MACTE) are united in their opposition to these bills;

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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Board of Education supports Michigan public school districts with policy guidance and standards that promote diversity, racial equity and inclusion; and supports the comprehensive teaching of U.S. history, including about race and racism and the consequences thereof, so that discussions about institutional racism or current and past discriminatory acts are not viewed as unpatriotic; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the State Board of Education firmly opposes Senate Bill 460 and House Bill 5097 for their chilling effect on local teachers and, in so doing, supports local school districts and local teachers in their professional and statutory responsibility to determine the most appropriate local curricula to effectively teach to local public school children Michigan's K-12 Standards for Social Studies adopted by the State Board of Education in 2019.

Adopted January 11, 2022