

**TO:** Dr. James Elsasser, Superintendent

**FROM:** Dr. Linda Adamson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

**SUBJECT:** **RESOLUTION NO. 21-12 OPPOSING THE TEACHING OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY, FIRST READING**

**DATE:** November 16, 2021

**BACKGROUND:** The attached resolution has been requested by the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District Board of Education, declaring the Board's opposition to the teaching of critical race theory (CRT) in TK-12 education.

**RATIONALE:** The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District stands strongly with our staff, families, and community and vows to reflect upon its policies, values, goals, and missions to ensure its commitment to all.

**FUNDING:** No cost to the district

**BOARD FOCUS AREA:** This board agenda item supports Focus Area 4.0, Safe and respectful environment – “A safe and respectful environment is essential to student success. We foster a culture that promotes the emotional health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, and parents.”

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Resolution No 21-12, opposing the teaching of Critical Race Theory, first reading.

**PREPARED BY:** Dr. Linda Adamson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 21-12**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TEACHING OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PYLUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) DECLARING ITS OFFICIAL  
STANCE ON THE TEACHING OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY IN TK-12 EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, All students deserve high-quality education and experiences at PYLUSD; and

**WHEREAS**, Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to restrict academic freedom or student political speech; and

**WHEREAS**, Nothing in this resolution shall require any staff member to violate federal or state law; and

**WHEREAS**, The PYLUSD BOE affirms its commitment and expectation that teachers will rely on the BOE adopted curriculum as the authoritative source for the content of instruction to provide a comprehensive education on United States history; and

**WHEREAS**, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District values all students and promotes equity, respects diversity, celebrates the contributions of all, and encourages culturally relevant and inclusive teaching practices; and PYLUSD further believes that the diversity that exists among the District's community of students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members is an asset to be honored and valued; and

**WHEREAS**, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District seeks to support the teaching of civil discourse and empathy by allowing students to see themselves and each other as part of the narrative that accounts for United States history; and

**WHEREAS**, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District condemns racism (a prejudged attitude and discriminatory behavior against individuals or groups on the grounds of race) and will not tolerate racism and racist conduct (PYLUSD Board Resolution No. 20-04, July 7, 2020); and

**WHEREAS**, PYLUSD desires to uplift and unite students by freeing them from the responsibility of historical transgressions in the past and instead will engage students of all cultures in age-appropriate critical thinking that helps students navigate the present and the future; and

**WHEREAS**, PYLUSD is committed to maintaining a safe, positive school environment where all students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members are treated with respect and dignity; and where we can and will serve and celebrate students through academic excellence; and

**Whereas**, Community members have expressed concern that Critical Race Theory is being used as a framework to guide District efforts to promote equity, respect diversity, celebrate the contributions of all, and encourage culturally relevant and inclusive teaching practices; and

**WHEREAS**, PYLUSD's definition aligns with Britannica's definition, which defines critical race theory (CRT) as an intellectual and social movement and loosely organized framework of legal analysis based on the premise that race is not a natural, biologically grounded feature of physically distinct subgroups of human beings but a socially constructed (culturally invented) category that is used to oppress and exploit people of color. Critical race theorists hold that racism is inherent in the law and legal institutions of the United States insofar as they function to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially African Americans. Critical race theorists are generally dedicated to applying their understanding of the institutional or structural nature of racism to the concrete (if distant) goal of eliminating all race-based and other unjust hierarchies.  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/critical-race-theory>.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District honors the experiences of all students by encouraging instruction that appropriately explores multiculturalism. The BOE seeks to support the teaching of respectful communication, empathy, and understanding by allowing students to see themselves and each other as part of the narrative that accounts for United States history.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, PYLUSD stands by the commitment to teach a complete and accurate account of history while also supporting the cultural integrity of students and empowering them to become active agents in the bridge-building process, we call American life. We can and will empower all students and serve all students.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, PYLUSD will not include CRT in any course offerings.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

State of California     )  
  )  
County of Orange     )

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021 and passed by a \_\_\_\_\_ vote of said Board.

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Karin Freeman  
President, Board of Education

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Dr. James Elsasser  
Secretary, Board of Education