

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-02**

**Whereas**, The education of our children is of paramount importance to the future of South Dakota and to the United States of America; and,

**Whereas**, South Dakota students deserve an education that will impart critical thinking and comprehension skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, and other disciplines that will form the foundation for lifelong learning. In addition, we must take every step to ensure that their education is free from undue bias and political indoctrination; and,

**Whereas**, Critical Race Theory is a political and divisive ideology that teaches a distorted view of the United States of America and its institutions. Critical Race Theory compels students to view the world through a purely racial lens and to judge others based on the color or their skin rather than the content of their character. The inherently divisive concepts that underlay Critical Race Theory have no place in our classrooms; and,

**Whereas**, Students should learn America's true, honest history – both our triumphs and failures. They should be exposed to a diversity of ideas and perspectives, be empowered to think for themselves, and be equipped with the knowledge and context to better understand our history and the world around them; and,

**Whereas**, We must continue to strive to recognize the dignity inherent in each individual and prevent governmental discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, do hereby Order and Direct the following:

1. For South Dakota accredited K-12 schools and all connected regulations and services, the Department of Education shall not direct or compel department employees, students, teachers, or school district employees to personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to inherently divisive concepts.
2. The Secretary of Education shall review all policies within the Department of Education to identify if any promote inherently divisive concepts. If any are identified, such policies shall end no later than October 1, 2022.
3. The Department of Education shall immediately review all guidelines, websites, best practices, and other materials produced by the department to identify if any promote or endorse inherently divisive concepts. If any are identified, such guidelines, websites, best practices, or materials shall be removed no later than October 1, 2022.
4. The Department of Education shall review any trainings or other professional development services offered by the department to K-12 accredited schools to determine if any promote inherently divisive concepts, or direct or compel students or educators to personally affirm, adopt,



or adhere to inherently divisive concepts. If any are identified, such trainings or services shall be modified or ended no later than October 1, 2022.

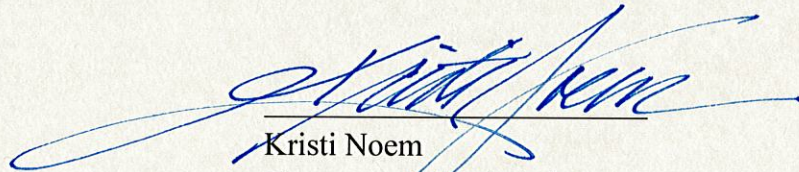
5. The Department of Education shall review all South Dakota Content Standards to identify if any inherently divisive concepts are included and remove any such standards through the content standards revision process. The Secretary of Education shall work with the Board of Education Standards to promulgate rules to prohibit the adoption of content standards that promote inherently divisive concepts, or which direct or compel students or educators to personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to inherently divisive concepts.

6. The Secretary of Education shall provide a report to the Office of the Governor no later than July 1, 2022 detailing any policies, guidelines, websites, best practices, materials, programs, training, or content standards that promote inherently divisive concepts and identify any necessary administrative or legislative action needed to end the use of all inherently divisive concepts in public education.

7. For the purposes of this Executive Order “inherently divisive concepts” means advancing any ideas in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including, but not limited to, any of the following concepts:

- (i) that one race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin is inherently superior to another race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin;
- (ii) that an individual should be discriminated against or adversely treated solely or partly on the basis of his or her race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin,
- (iii) that an individual's moral character is inherently determined by his or her race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin,
- (iv) that an individual, by virtue of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or subconsciously,
- (v) that an individual, by virtue of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin, is responsible for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, or national origin, or
- (vi) that meritocracy or traits, such as a strong work ethic, are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular race or sex to oppress members of another race or sex.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota this 5th day of April, 2022.



Kristi Noem  
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

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Steve Barnett  
Secretary of State