



# Governance & Political Polarization of Elementary and Secondary Public Schools

Antonio Coronado (They/He)  
Supervising Attorney & Clinical Teaching Fellow  
REEL Policy Clinic, GULC



# OVERVIEW & GROUNDING

1. About: The REEL Policy Clinic
2. Framing This Moment
3. The 2022 Legislative Session
4. Reflections on Our Work
5. Looking Forward



# THE RACIAL EQUITY IN EDUCATION LAW & POLICY CLINIC



-Launched Spring 2022

-Engages in policy advocacy on behalf of clients to advance racial equity in education

-Employs a lens of CRT

-Work includes: Testimony, interdisciplinary research, coalition-building, comment letters, legislative drafting

# FRAMING THIS MOMENT



## U.S. Public Education Has Always Been Political

-Foundations: The criminalized and weaponized education of Black and Indigenous children

## “Local Control” Is Rarely Community Sovereignty

-Recurring role of vigilantism, surveillance, and violent white supremacist intervention

## Linked Forms of White Supremacy

-Current wave of policies advance linked forms of subordination



# THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:



**42**

STATES SOUGHT TO  
RESTRICT “CRT” IN  
SCHOOLS SINCE 2021

-EdWeek (2022)

**25**



STATE BILLS  
DISCRIMINATING  
AGAINST LGBTQIA  
STUDENTS

-Freedom for All Americans (2022)

**350+**

PUBLIC TIPS TO V.A.’S  
ANTI-CRT “HOTLINE.”  
FEW RELATED TO CRT  
IN SCHOOLS

-USA Today (2022)

**0**

EVIDENCE THAT  
GENDER-INCLUSIVE  
BATHROOMS  
THREATEN SAFETY

-Hasenbush, Flores, & Herman (2019)



# ARIZONA:

## SB 1412 (Died in Chamber)

Bans instruction “that promotes or advocates for any of the following concepts:

...

2. That one race or ethnic group is inherently **morally** or **intellectually superior** to another race or ethnic group.
3. That an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or ethnicity, is inherently **racist** or **oppressive**, whether consciously or unconsciously”



# **VIRGINIA:**

## **PROPOSED 2022 MODEL D.O.E. POLICIES**

- A focus on “parents’ rights”
- Schools shall defer to parents regarding student’s gender, pronouns, and name
- Schools shall keep parents informed of student’s “health, and social and psychological development”



# DEFENSE:

How are we pushing back against attacks on the autonomy, dignity, & safety of students of color?

Commonwealth of Virginia  
The Virginia Department of Education

Comment on  
Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia's Public Schools

October 26, 2022

The Racial Equity in Education Law and Policy Clinic (the "REEL Policy Clinic") of Georgetown University Law Center leverages legislative and policy interventions to help remedy racial inequities in public education. The Clinic's student attorneys engage in legislative lawyering to help advance our clients goals, including challenging long-standing educational inequities that negatively impact the educational outcomes of students of color. This work necessarily includes centering the experiences of LGBTQIA students of color and addressing proposed guidance, practices, laws, and policies that have the potential of deepening entrenched forms of racial subordination and marginalization.

**COMMENT IN OPPOSITION TO  
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION'S PROPOSED  
MODEL POLICIES**





# OFFENSE:

How are we affirming the inherent autonomy, dignity, & safety of youth of color?

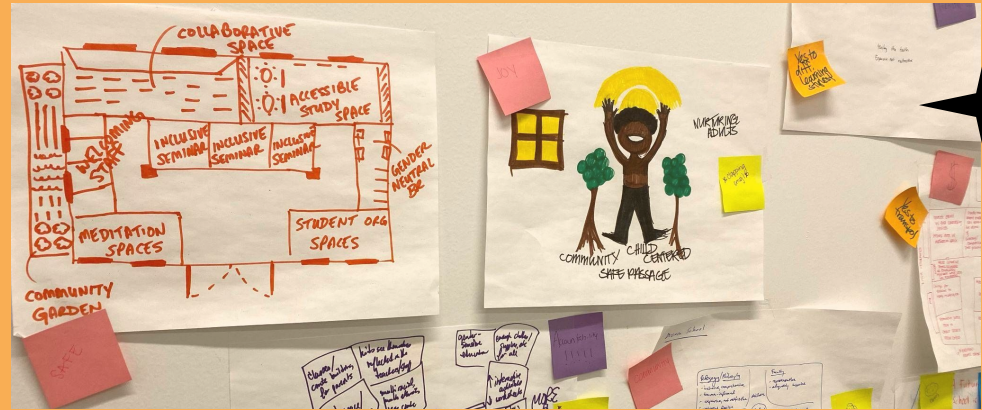


**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE D.C.  
COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF OUR  
CLIENT, BLACK SWAN ACADEMY**



# DREAMING:

How are we contributing to a future that affirms and cherishes the experiences of students of color?



**ADOPTING A PRACTICE OF  
RADICAL IMAGINATION IN  
CLINICAL LEGAL WORK**



# LOOKING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK

- ✦ **THE PERSISTING VALUE OF CRT**
- ✦ **THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY  
POWER & SELF-DETERMINATION**
- ✦ **FUTURE REFORM MUST ANTICIPATE  
FUTURE RETRENCHMENT**





# Thank You

I'm Honored to Share in this Space with Y'all

