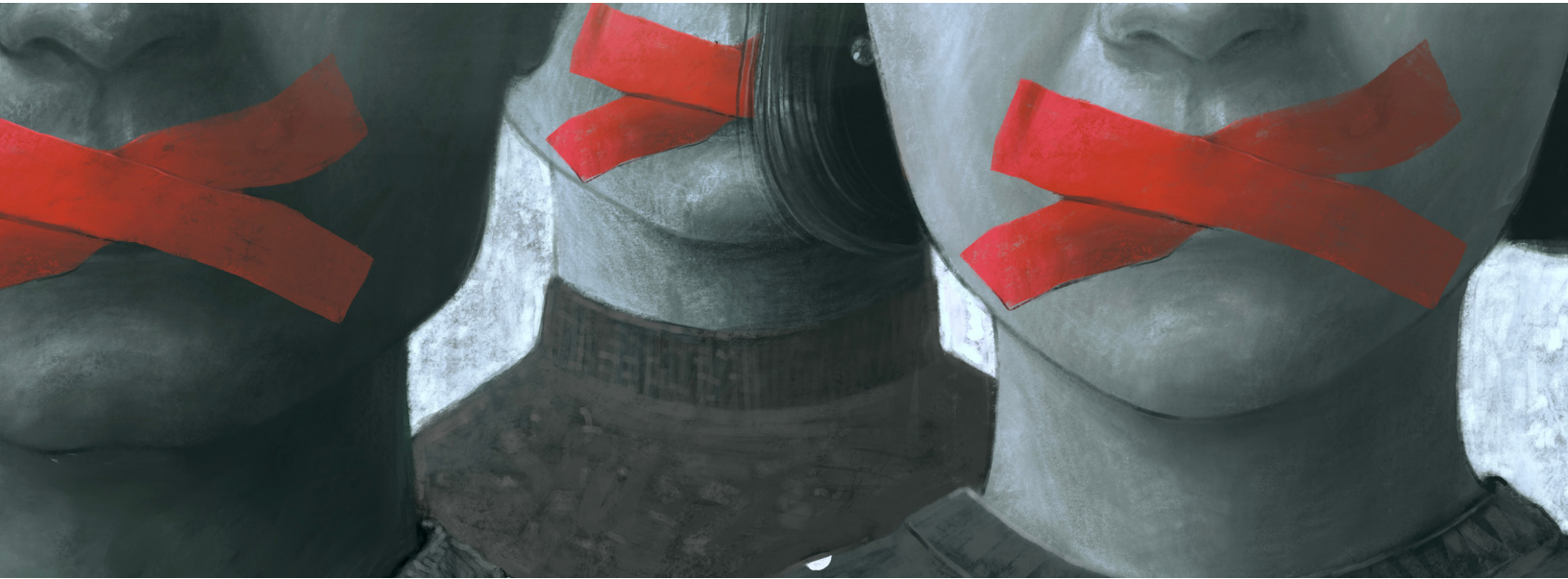


H. 4343

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT H. 4343

## THE SOUTH CAROLINA ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ACT



### What is banned under H. 4343?

- Prohibits requiring professional development, training or courses that cover concepts that may result in an individual feeling discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress based on race or sex, that suggest an individual is responsible for past actions of members of their race or sex, and more topics related to race and sex.
- Prohibits distinctions or classification of students based on race or color.
- Prohibits mandatory gender and sexuality diversity trainings or counseling.
- Prohibits curricula, course materials or instruction based on the [New York Times 1619 Project](#).

### Who is impacted by H. 4343?

- Students, administrators, teachers, school faculty and staff, volunteers or other school/district employees at public schools.
- Public schools defined as all schools or career and technical/vocational centers governed by a local public school board or charter authorizer. It also includes the Governor's Schools for Arts and Humanities, Agriculture, and Science and Mathematics, as well as the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

**Defend South Carolina educators, students, and truth in education by voting NO on H. 4343.**

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT H. 4343

**H. 4343 establishes several burdensome requirements at a critical time when schools are experiencing staff shortages and educators are focused on educating children during a global pandemic. Failure to comply will result in a loss of funding for children. These mandates include:**

- Each public school website must include an electronic form and school personnel contact information for parents **and the general public** to submit complaints, make inquiries or recommendations on curricula or materials.
- Each year, schools must track and report the number of complaints received to the South Carolina Department of Education (SDOE), and the SDOE must then report to the General Assembly.
- Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each school must provide a detailed list of instructional materials and curricula on its public homepage and shall review instructional materials for every offered course. If a school fails to maintain an updated homepage or list of instructional materials within five business days after the course begins, the SDOE must withhold a portion of a district's funding under the Education Finance Act for each class.
- Also, the SDOE must withhold a portion of a district's funding for each class in the district that fails to adhere to the ban on the use of the 1619 Project.
- New reporting requirements for the SDOE and schools that applied for or received federal grants to support history or civics education, including a requirement that schools inform parents and guardians of the instructional materials and curricula to be adopted and provide copies, when requested.

## How will H. 4343 impact student learning and school climate?

This legislation may limit students' and educators' freedom of speech and the free exchange of ideas, classroom discourse, and the analysis it facilitates. This bill's potential silencing of honest discussions of our country's history could deny the experiences of Black people, other people of color, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals. The legislation does not improve student achievement or school climate; in fact, it may create additional barriers to student success and well-being. **For instance, H. 4343:**

- May eliminate crucial trainings that help educators, regardless of their personal beliefs, create inclusive environments for students who may experience trauma related to their race, sexuality, or gender identity.
- Could place unnecessary and tremendous burdens on educators and deny students access to education funding — for example, it sets an expectation that educators will be familiar with any claims, views, or opinions in the 1619 Project, an approximately 30,000 word compilation of essays that examines the legacy of slavery in America.

**Every student should have the right to receive an accurate and inclusive education. Truthful and inclusive discussions about United States and South Carolina history, as well as current events pertaining to ongoing race and gender inequalities, are essential to quality academic instruction. Lawmakers should demonstrate trust in educators and prioritize supporting their needs, rather than imposing unnecessary burdens that do not improve student achievement.**



# Defend South Carolina educators, students, and truth in education by voting **NO** on H. 4343.