SPECIAL REPORT

The State of Education

CENSORSHIP
In Institutions of Higher Ed, and Implications for the Field

33%

Of Live Educational Group Debt Bills and Enacted Laws Affect Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) Directly

In the United States

41 States Have introduced education censorship bills
7 of Which Have higher ed gag orders in force

What’s Being Censored Across IHEs?
Discussions and curriculum regarding:

Race and Racism
LGBTQ + People and Inclusion
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Legislative Themes Across States Implicating IHEs

1. Scoping: Preventing colleges and universities from adopting policies that create a “safe space” for students to engage in speech.
2. Cross-School or Systemwide Policy - Prohibiting diversity, equity, or inclusion training for faculty and staff, or mandating that IHEs have a diversity, equity, or inclusion plan.
3. Mandating Student Conduct - Mandating that IHEs adopt student conduct policies that require students to be engaged in diversity, equity, or inclusion training.
4. Protecting Diversity and Inclusion - Mandating that IHEs adopt student conduct policies that require students to be engaged in diversity, equity, or inclusion training.

We identified approximately 50 states that use the term CRF in their protective legislation.

Potential Implications for EPPs

- Restrict the intellectual freedom of teachers and the liberty to create program standards that support this work
- Create significant and costly bureaucracies that stifle student learning
- Negatively impact retention and attrition rates among educators
- Sacrifice the ability of educators to fully serve diverse students and their needs
- Interfere with research-based, instructional practices that address critical thinking and skilled students to compete in an increasingly globalized market economy
- Prevent use of immediately inclusive content and curriculum standards in teacher preparation programs

The Stop CRF Act, proposed by the Senate in July at 2021, includes the prohibition of "the allocation of federal funds to . . . restriction of higher education that compete with or attend certain race-based theories"

Visit exacto.org to read the full report and explore our Addressing Censorship Toolkit, a resource from AACTE and organizations also combating censorship.