

Toolkit: Resources to Address Academic Censorship

This Toolkit is a working list of resources for teacher educators and candidates to use when learning about & addressing academic censorship threats in their schools.

- ❖ WEBINARS
- ❖ RESEARCH & REPORTS
- ❖ POLICY & ADVOCACY
- ❖ LEGISLATION TRACKERS
- ❖ MESSAGING
- ❖ BOOK BANNING RESOURCES

WEBINARS FROM AACTE

[The State of Education Censorship in Institutions of Higher Ed, and Implications for the Field](#): Deep Dive into AACTE’s report covering implications for faculty in colleges of education, teacher educators, and the field of educator preparation.

[Ed Censorship and the Role of Book Banning](#): Experts in Teacher Education & Library Sciences discuss the evolving crisis of book banning and strategies to ensure schools have access to diverse, affirming literature and curriculum

[Educators Addressing Censorship through Collective Action & Messaging](#): Convening of educator preparation deans, faculty, & candidates, principals, and superintendents to more deeply understand the education censorship concerns from perspectives of both education preparation providers and K-12 school systems.

[AACTE Town Hall on Critical Race Theory](#): Six deans explore the integral role educator preparation programs play in advancing scholarly work on critical race theory and resisting recent federal attacks on institutions’ efforts centered on this work.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AACTE

[Teaching Truth: Protecting and Advancing Culturally Responsive Curricula in Our Schools - YouTube](#) : Webinar by The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights' Education Task Force, of which AACTE is a part, discusses implications of policy on teaching truth in P-20 schools.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

[The State of Education Censorship in Institutions of Higher Ed, and Implications for the Field | AACTE](#): Comprehensive overview of proposed and enacted censorship in education impacting educators, students, and training for the next generation of teachers.

[America's Censored Classrooms | PEN America](#): Landscape of educational gag orders as of August 2022. [Educational gag orders](#) are state legislative efforts to restrict teaching about topics such as race, gender, American history, and LGBTQ+ identities in K–12 and higher education.

***At AACETE's Washington Week, Jeremy Young, Senior Manager of Free Expression and Education at PEN America, presented State of Censorship Legislation on IHE's, the slides of which can be found here: [Slides, Educational Gag Orders and Higher Education](#)

[Censorship & Hostile School Climate Bills | Movement Advancement Project](#): examines the wave of state legislation that censor discussions of race, ethnicity, religion, and LGBTQ people in schools and that create a hostile climate for students.

[INCLUSIVE CURRICULAR STANDARDS Representation of LGBTQ+ and Other Marginalized Communities Promotes Student Achievement and Wellbeing | GLSEN](#): examines how inclusive curriculum promotes student achievement and wellbeing; providing both resources and state policy spotlights for educators.

[Toolkit for Local Advocates](#): Teaching Diverse and Inclusive Curricula Materials and Defending Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Education Task Force: A collection of resources sourced from the Task Force's members.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

SIGN ON LETTERS

[Open Letter on Academic Freedom to Teach about Race and Gender Justice - Action Network](#)

[A Civil Rights Community Response to Attacks on the Right of Students to Learn About Historical and Ongoing Racial Oppression in the United States](#)

[Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History](#)

PROTECTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM THROUGH FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION CAMPAIGNS:

These resources are from AACTE's Washington Week where Higher Education Faculty Lead for African American Policy Forum, Dr. Jennifer Ruth presented on advocacy resources that can help faculty address threats to academic freedom and cultures of censorship in IHE's

[Faculty, You Have Power! Use It! | ACADEME BLOG](#): Helpful stage setting for what's at stake for faculty; authored by Dr. Ruth and Ellen Schrecker, author of the book, *The Lost Promise: American Universities in the 1960s*.

[Senate Resolution Campaigns -Washington Week Slides](#) : These slides are from AACTE's 2022 Washington Week session with Dr. Jennifer Ruth, Higher Education Faculty Lead at the African American Policy Forum

[Reflection Blog](#): This blog from Holmes Scholar, Leslie Ekpe, is a reflection on Dr. Ruth's session as it applies to teacher preparation and their experience as a doctoral candidate.

[Template for Academic Freedom Senate Resolution](#) : Use this template, as many institutions have adopted or are considering adopting the Faculty Senate Resolution in support of academic freedom, the teaching of Critical Race Theory, and race and gender education. List of Institutions who have passed resolutions and their letter can be found here: [Faculty Senate Resolutions Passed - Examples](#)

RESOURCES FOR PRACTITIONERS

[Know Your Rights: A Back-to-School Guide | NEA](#): This resource can help educators know more about their rights as a patchwork of state and local censorship and anti-LGBTQ+ rules

LEGISLATIVE TRACKERS

[Critical Race Theory FAQ & Bans on Truth, History and Racial Discourse by State | NAACP](#)

[LGBTQ+ Legislation: Education & Schools | Equality Federation](#)

[Index of Educational Gag Orders \(Differentiated by PK-12 & IHE's\) | PEN America](#)

[TruthBeTold Legislative Tracker | African American Policy Forum](#)

[Censorship Attacks on Book Bans](#) | Provided by AAPF Education Working Group

[Youth Censorship Database | National Coalition Against Censorship](#)

[Teach Truth: Know Your Rights \(State PDFs\) | NEA](#)

MESSAGING

[Messaging Guidance | PEN America](#): For citizens and educators to change the conversation around educational gag orders in their communities

[Messaging Guidance | African American Policy Forum](#): For K-12 Teachers, Racial Justice Advocates, and Voting Rights & Democracy Advocates

[Equity Messaging Guidance for School Districts | National Equity Project](#): to support districts in communication and engagement related to your diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts

BOOK BANS

[Banned in the USA: Rising School Book Bans Threaten Free Expression and Students' First Amendment Rights - PEN America](#): PEN America's Landscape Analysis on the state of book bans and their implications for free speech in schools.

[American Library Association Intellectual Freedom & Censorship Q&A](#): This resource discusses key issues in censorship of materials, with a unique lens on library resources and selection processes

[Censorship Attacks through Book Bans](#): This resource from members of African American Policy Forum's Education Working Group breaks down challenges to books by year, district state, targeted groups, public libraries, and other relevant themes for analysis & advocacy.

[Ed Censorship and the Role of Book Banning](#): Experts in Teacher Education & Library Sciences discuss the evolving crisis of book banning and strategies to ensure schools have access to diverse, affirming literature and curriculum
