



Things to know about A.R.S. §15-717.02 regarding “prohibited instruction”

At the end of the 2021 session of the Arizona Legislature, a bill was passed that prohibits instruction on certain topics from being offered in public schools (district or charter) in grades PK-12. The law states that a teacher or administrator shall not allow instruction regarding seven broad concepts:

1. One race, ethnic group or sex is inherently morally or intellectually superior to another race, ethnic group or sex.
2. An individual, by virtue of the individual's race, ethnicity or sex, is inherently racist, sexist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.
3. An individual should be “invidiously” discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race, ethnicity or sex.
4. An individual's moral character is determined by the individual's race, ethnicity or sex.
5. An individual, by virtue of the individual's race, ethnicity or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed by other members of the same race, ethnic group or sex.
6. An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress because of the individual's race, ethnicity or sex.
7. Academic achievement, meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a particular race, ethnic group or sex to oppress members of another race, ethnic group or sex.

The law allows for a county attorney or the attorney general to initiate a lawsuit against a school district or charter school.

The law allows for a teacher to be disciplined for violating this section, and for a penalty to be levied against the teacher's employer.

The law DOES NOT prohibit the exploration of historical events from various perspectives, or the examination of differing opinions within the context of academic instruction.

Likewise, the law DOES NOT prohibit continuing to use an equity lens to improve student success.