

### **Censoring Public Education**

**MAGA Extremists in the Missouri Legislature passed legislation interfering with public school curricula in an attempt to intimidate instruction on topics related to racism and race-related issues.**

Over the past few years, MAGA Extremists in Missouri have led the nation in educational intimidation legislation, outpacing Texas and Oklahoma. Senate Bill 4 is only one of thirty-one such attacks on Missouri students and teachers. This bill attempts to intimidate teachers and public instruction related to racism and race-related issues by creating a statewide portal housing school financial data and every public school curriculum. Senate Bill 4, like many other Republican-led attacks on teachers and students, banned the teaching of Critical Race Theory in public schools. Critical Race Theory, or CRT, has become a catch-all term for MAGA Republicans' attempts to ban instruction on racism. According to KCUR, any district out of compliance with these MAGA Extremist demands would “be subject to litigation or other form of redress and to a civil penalty of \$500 per occurrence.” [SB4, Missouri State Legislature, Regular Session 2023; KCUR, [1/24/2023](#); St. Louis Post Dispatch, [8/23/2023](#)]

**MAGA Extremists passed legislation to expand private school vouchers at the expense of public education:** With the bare minimum number of House votes required, Republicans passed [SB727](#), which would funnel up to \$75 million to private schools through a tax credit program. The bill represented a large expansion of the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Account program, which provides funding for students to attend private schools, and also expanded charter schools to Boone County. Democrats criticized the bill for taking money from public schools and sending it to private schools, likely necessitating future tax increases, and for being unaffordable. An estimate on the bill’s fiscal impact projects the measure could cost the state more than \$450 million annually when fully in place. The bill is pending approval by the governor. [KCUR, [4/19/24](#); Missouri.net, [4/18/24](#)]