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Dear SAU 16 Community Members,

I hope this communication finds you participating in all that summer has to offer in New Hampshire.

I'm writing today to simply provide some follow up to the statewide conversation on the [prohibition of teaching divisive concepts](#) in our classrooms. As many of you are aware, New Hampshire's two-year state budget was passed recently and it included a bill that prevents schools from teaching or training about discriminatory practices. You may also be aware that we have been implementing social justice practices and training staff on issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. As a result, we have been asked if the "divisive concepts bill" will end these districts' efforts, and the short answer is no, it will not.

Our ongoing effort in this work has always been to ensure that our school system is free from bias and discrimination, where individuals of all backgrounds and experiences are welcomed and where personal narratives are heard, included and valued. We want our students to be prepared to live and work globally and build respectful relationships with people of all backgrounds and differences. And, we teach to value all voices regardless of the point of view or perspective.

SAU 16 has no "canned curriculum" and "critical race theory" is not a part of our training or instruction. We will continue to teach from historical contexts as outlined in the New Hampshire Department of Education frameworks, and we will continue to remain compliant with the law.

We would like to invite you to our "Learning About DEIJ in SAU 16" on August 19, 2021 at 5:30 PM in the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School so that we can inform you about this work. Our goal will be to provide an overview of this work in our school districts and to answer any questions that you may have. This will be an introductory session that sets in motion a space for everyone to share viewpoints in a safe and respectful manner, and we hope that you will engage with us in this very important work.

Sincerely,

David Ryan, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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