



Public School Curriculum: What Should Be Taught, and Who Decides?

August 2022

Description: What should be taught in our public schools? What should not be taught and left for the parents to teach their children? Who decides what should be taught?

Estimated time: 1.5 hours

(1) Getting acquainted and comfortable

5 - 10 min.

Welcome

- Thank you for coming...
- We are a part of The Great Reset, which was born out of a shift we're seeing in our country. We have been in a place where we don't tend to speak 'beyond our bubbles' and across perspectives. The Great Reset has been opening up a grey space for such conversations since 2018. You are now part of keeping the conversation going and we thank you.

The Pillars of The Great Reset

- To share our own thoughts and perspectives with humility
- To learn from others and listen with respect

Ground Rules

- Every comment is valid and deserving of respect
- We show respect by speaking one at a time, putting our phones on silent and staying engaged, even when we are not speaking
- In the interest of time, I may cut in to ask you to 'top-line' something if we need to move on. This means simply offer up a synopsis of your thoughts and speak in bullets, not paragraphs

Confidentiality

I would like a verbal from everyone that you are here of your own volition and out of respect for one another I would ask you to keep what others say in this room unless they give you permission otherwise. (go around and get verbal agreement). Further, you agree to adhere to the principles outlined already: to deliver your perspectives bound to the principles of respect, to **listen with humility and offer grace to others who are sharing this space.**

Personal Introductions

Please share your name, and where you live, and in what grades do you currently have children or grandchildren attending public school.

*****Remind everyone we're recording but we won't use any clips without their approval*****



(2) What should be taught in our public schools? What should not be taught?

35 - 40 min.

- What are the most important things that our children in our K-12 public schools should be learning? Another way to ask this is “What is school for?”
- So if that’s what our children should be learning, what should teachers be teaching?
- What should teachers not be teaching in our K-12 public schools?
- If K-12 teachers should not be teaching those things, then who will be teaching them? And how confident are you that these people other than teachers will be able to actually teach them and kids actually learn them? Why or why not?

(3) Who decides what should be taught in our public schools

25 - 30 min.

- So who decides what our children will be learning, what teachers are teaching, in our K-12 public schools? Why them and not others?
- What should be the roles of the following parties in deciding what is taught in our public schools ... the school board, the school’s superintendent and curriculum director, the principals, the teachers, the parents, the kids themselves, governors and mayors, state and local legislators, State and federal departments of education?
- Is the decision making for who decides what is taught in public schools different than what is taught in private or religious schools? If it is different, how and why is it different?
- Is the decision making for who decides what is taught different in public community colleges and universities than in K-12 public education? If it is different, how and why is it different?

(4) Closing comments

5 - 10 min.

- Any additional comments about what we should be and should not be teaching in our public schools, or who decides what is being taught and what isn’t?



Survey link:

Pre-survey questions:

1. When should children in today's K-12 public schools begin to receive instruction about sex education?

Never Elementary school Middle school High school

2. Should teachers in K-12 public schools be allowed to post Pride symbols or similar visual support in their classrooms?

Never Yes, but not earlier middle school Yes, but not earlier than high school

3. Should the internment of US citizens of Japanese descent during WW2 be included in K-12 public school US History instruction?

Never Yes, but not earlier middle school Yes, but not earlier than high school

4. Should the 1921 Tulsa Massacre be included in K-12 public school US History instruction?

Never Yes, but not earlier middle school Yes, but not earlier than high school

5. Should Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* be an assigned reading in K-12 high school literature classes?

Never Yes, but with an alternative book for those who object
Yes, and with no options for those who object

6. Should JD Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* be an assigned reading in K-12 high school literature classes?

Never Yes, but with an alternative book for those who object
Yes, and with no options for those who object