



## Lawmakers continue probe of critical race theory in Missouri schools despite results of district survey

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Monday was the first day of school for many districts in Missouri. Over the summer, the state’s education department asked school districts if they taught critical race theory in a survey.

Last month, members of the Missouri House and Senate heard testimony on why critical race theory (CRT) should be banned in the state, but on Monday, they heard why schools should teach it. Of the 554 districts in the state, only one said it teaches CRT.

“I don’t think that people actually know what critical race theory is at one moment in time,” Former director of the Anti-Defamation League Karen Aroesty told the committee. “Learning about the history of race and racism is important.”

CRT is a hot-button issue that’s making headlines across the country as other states pass legislation prohibiting curriculum in their public-school systems. Some Republican lawmakers are asking the governor to ban the teaching of critical race theory in Missouri schools.

“Over the summer, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) gave the 500 plus school districts a survey about CRT and the “1619 Project.” The first question read:

Question: Does your LEA’s board-approved curriculum include lessons about CRT?

The only school to answer yes was Kansas City Public Schools, explaining their answer by saying:

“We offer an African Centered College prep magnet school that services both elementary and secondary students. The board also approved the 1619 Project service learning and community activism grant to be taught during summer school. The curriculum is fully aligned with the Missouri Learning Standards.”

Five schools left the answer blank and 419 districts said no.

The second question read:

Question: Does your LEA’s board-approved curriculum include *The New York Times* 1619 Project?

Three schools answered yes: **Hazelwood School District**, Kansas City Public Schools, and the School District of University City. Hazelwood explains its answer by saying:

“4th Grade Social Studies – The 1619 Project is listed as one of the teacher resources about the arrival of enslaved Africans in Jamestown.

8th Grade Social Studies – Students are given a reading of two paragraphs from the 1619 Project describing the arrival of enslaved Africans in Jamestown.

US History (9th Grade) – The 1619 Project is mentioned in a suggested learning activity where President Trump discusses the 1619 Project and the 1776 project.”

## Hearing support for critical race theory

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The Joint Committee on Education hosted its second public hearing on critical race theory and the New York Times 1619 Project on Monday in Jefferson City.

Like the committee's first public hearing on the controversial issue, only invited speakers were permitted to provide testimony.

Seven members of the public, representing various organizations, groups and perspectives, provided testimony and answered questions from lawmakers during the course of the roughly two-hour hearing.

Unlike the previous hearing, most members of the public permitted to testify spoke against legislative efforts to prohibit or obstruct the teaching of critical race theory.

Fred Barnes, legislative staff for committee chairwoman Cindy O'Laughlin, R-Shelbina, said Monday's hearing agenda was created in collaboration with committee Democrats.

Members of the public not invited to speak at the hearing were given the option to provide input through written testimony sent to O'Laughlin's office.

Barnes said the written testimony won't be included in Monday's committee minutes. Instead, they will be compiled and sent to committee members.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sent a survey to Missouri K-12 school districts and charter schools in July in an effort to determine how many schools were teaching critical race theory and the 1619 Project. Of the 425 schools that responded, one Kansas City 33 School District indicated its local education agency approved curriculum includes lessons about critical race theory.

Three school districts **Hazelwood School District**, Kansas City Public Schools and the School District of University City indicated their local education agency approved curriculum incorporates the 1619 Project.

The 1619 Project is an ongoing long-form journalism project from The New York Times Magazine with the goal of reframing U.S. history "by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative," according to its website.

The 1619 Project began in August 2019.

## Weekly High School Sports Schedule For Hazelwood Area



HAZELWOOD, MO — Prep sports are making a comeback in communities across the U.S., and Patch and ScoreStream have rounded up this week's scheduled games for you. Missouri and the Hazelwood area are filled with crosstown rivalries and top tier teams that make for some great local matches.

Some big games are on the docket in and near Hazelwood. Football athletes are among the local stars excited to play and compete before their families, friends and community fans.

Fan attendance may still be limited at certain games due to the coronavirus pandemic, so it's important to check with the venue for guidance on admission and game time.

Here are the upcoming games in the Hazelwood area:

### **Hazelwood West High School Wildcats** — Boys Varsity Football

Vs. University City Lions

- **When:** Friday, August 27th, 6:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Hazelwood West Football Field
- [More Info](#)

## St. Louis Teachers Say ‘Soul Of Education’ At Stake In Debate Over How To Teach History



Joseph Kibler teaches U.S. history to freshmen at Hazelwood West High School. He says teachers are bringing a fuller history to students, not teaching critical race theory.

“What’s happening in the classroom is not critical race theory, but giving space and giving voice to other perspectives,” said Joseph Kibler, a history teacher at Hazelwood West High School. “It’s not being taught in a confrontational way. It’s just things that happened that weren’t taught before are being taught now.”

History has long been taught from a white-centered perspective, said LaGarrett King, associate professor of social studies education at the University of Missouri. This narrow view of the nation’s past has an impact, King said.

“History is about identity. History is about citizenship,” said King, founder of the Carter Center for K-12 Black History, which helps schools develop curriculum. “What does it say to our citizens in the classroom when we only teach one perspective?”

Some white parents have been highly critical of King’s work as an adviser for the Francis Howell School District, which this year plans to offer Black history and Black literature courses.



## Craig Blac's Community Cuts stays sharp after two decades



Twenty years and more than 10,000 haircuts and stylings later, Craig Blac's "Community Cuts for Kids" is more than part of the back-to-school scene.

It's part of the St. Louis region's fabric. "I had no idea," Blac said of his event's popularity and longevity.

"It started in one location with eight total barbers and stylists combined. The next thing I know we are at 20 years! It's been a great ride. I wouldn't change a thing."

The inspiration for "Community Cuts" came from a group of civic minded DJs and radio executives searching for a new concept in service. "I was challenged by then Q95.5 Program Director 'Mic Fox' and Assistant Program Director 'MoShay' to come up with a community event. With MoShay's help, we brainstormed 'Community Cuts for Kids,'" Blac explained.

"We started at one community center, I think it was off Page, with volunteer barbers and stylists. Over the years, we have moved to several different locations; Monsanto YMCA on Page, The Herbert Hoover Boys Girls Club, The Mary Brown Center (East St Louis), The Urban Bat Cave (East St Louis) East St Louis High School & SIUE - East St Louis." Blac estimates "a little over 10,000 haircuts and stylings combined" have been donated.

"And that's just an estimate. We have also provided services for a lot of kids, and I have to thank all the great barbers and stylists in St Louis and East St Louis for making that happen," he said.

Community Cuts ran from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 15 at five locations: Elite Blendz Barber Shop, 5759 Chippewa St.; First Class Barber Shop, 5332 W. Florissant Ave.; No Limit To Beauty (held at Larimore Elementary School) 1025 Trampe Ave., and East St. Louis High School.

Like so many other events, the 2021 edition of Community Cuts "was a little different because of COVID," according to Blac.

[https://www.stlamerican.com/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/living\\_it/craig-bla-c-s-community-cuts-stays-sharp-after-two-decades/article\\_9daa2e5c-ff9f-11eb-b9f6-ff27d303165e.html](https://www.stlamerican.com/arts_and_entertainment/living_it/craig-bla-c-s-community-cuts-stays-sharp-after-two-decades/article_9daa2e5c-ff9f-11eb-b9f6-ff27d303165e.html)

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