



R.A.C.C.E.

Challenging systems of oppression by advocating for culturally competent educational practices.

RADICAL ADVOCATES FOR CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION

R.A.C.C.E.'s 2017 Legislative Agenda

CCJEF Ruling has Consequences Despite Appeal

1. Parents, students, educators, clergy, and locally elected officials all support more funding for education. Funding education fairly, especially for urban centers like Waterbury so that educational outcomes improve is the non-delegable duty of the state. Our goal is to promote a funding formula that makes educational equity a reality. In short, we want equity not equality in school funding.
2. Parents, students, and taxpayers support changes to the system(s) that don't work now. We need solutions that positively impact educational outcomes. This includes improving educator evaluations; curriculum, expanding the diversity of educator workforces, and ensuring all students have access to culturally competent teachers, including special needs students. We need new and better accountability measures.

A collaborative effort is required to push the legislature to pass laws that immediately impact the deficiencies highlighted by the court in its ruling. To achieve this we are partnering with like-minded educational advocacy groups all across the state, and we hope our city's leaders will join us.

Improving the Diversity of the City's Educator Workforce

1. Through our positions on the **State Legislative Task Force on Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention**, and the **Oversight Policy Committee for the CSDE on Minority Teacher Recruitment** we will push for legislative fixes that positively impact the pipeline of non-white educators; and for the elimination of barriers that prevent candidates of color from becoming certified educators. This includes making recommendations to districts, including Waterbury; to change its hiring practices so that these practices more aggressively address the lack of diversity in the educator workforce.
2. We will advocate that our city take risks that result in the creation of new programming, and incentives for minority educators to choose Waterbury as their district of choice. Risk taking and innovation is key. This includes expanding alternative routes to certification. We ask that the Mayor endorse our recommendation for creating a committee made up of local stakeholders to act as an oversight body that provides advice as well as independently evaluates the Department of Education's efforts regarding minority teacher recruitment as well as our proposal to modify the hiring process.

Improving School Climate and Ending the School-to-Prison Pipeline

1. Currently Waterbury Public Schools have significant disparities in discipline between Black and Hispanic students and their White counterparts. We will be supporting legislation that expands the moratorium on suspensions for K-2 students to students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. We believe in eliminating all forms of exclusionary discipline policies. Therefore, we will be advocating for an increase in oversight by the CSDE on this issue here in Waterbury and across the state.
2. Locally, we believe in expanding opportunities for all students to be assessed, and placed in Talented and Gifted programming. We believe piloting a universal screening process in our city will generate the needed information to enhance current students' experiences. Again, risk taking and innovation is key. This will help distinguish our school district for families as well as businesses looking to move to our region and relocate to Waterbury.