

By its very nature, racism is an insidious and scurrilous virus attacking true democracy. The Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) are “committed to supporting ongoing dialogue and self-reflection about antiracism, equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice within the organization and the profession of school psychology” (NASP, 2020). In order to do so, we must promote honest conversations in schools. Critical Race Theory is an issue that should be a part of those discussions.

MASP supports the NASP position statement entitled “Prejudice, Discrimination, and Racism” which is that:

*Positive educational and social outcomes for all children and youth are possible only in a society—and schools within it—that guarantees equitable treatment to all people, regardless of race, class, culture, language, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, citizenship, ability, and other dimensions of difference. NASP firmly believes that all students are entitled to an education that affirms and validates the diversity of their cultural and individual differences, fosters resilience, and facilitates well-being and positive academic and mental health outcomes. (NASP, 2019)*

In a NASP article titled: The Importance of Addressing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Schools (NASP 2021), the authors indicate that allowing “for honest, respectful, and developmentally appropriate discussions about topics such as privilege, racism, bias, and systemic racism in our nation’s schools” is essential; not to divide and teach students to hate, but to develop an understanding of how “existing systems, structures, and policies can cause inequitable outcomes.”

The authors continue that professional development for teachers and educators on systematic racism, privilege and similar topics is not because they are consciously racist. In actuality it is meant to provide them with the tools to “advance equity in their schools and classrooms, ensure that all students see themselves in the curriculum, and identify and remedy the impact their individual biases may have on their students.” (NASP 2021)

The MASP Social Justice and Multicultural Ethics Committee is in complete agreement and alignment with the NASP position on the importance of addressing such matters in schools. For a more detailed explanation of our position, and explanation of what Critical Race Theory is; as well as what it is not, please refer to the following link:

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity-and-social-justice/social-justice/the-importance-of-addressing-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-in-schools-dispelling-myths-about-critical-race-theory>