



Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR JEAN HUNHOFF, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS KARR, CO-CHAIR

May 11, 2021

Tiffany Sanderson, Secretary
Department of Education
800 Governors Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Applications for Federal Grants in History and Civics

Dear Secretary Sanderson,

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2021 Legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on May 11, 2021.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

It is the intent of the JCA to have the South Dakota Department of Education, as well as other agencies and governmental divisions of South Dakota, delay any application for federal grants touching on the areas of education in American history or civics until after the South Dakota Legislature has had an opportunity to address and act upon legislative initiatives related to these topics in its 2022 Legislative session.

The intent of JCA is that no applications whatsoever for federal grants in American history or civics education ought to be made until such time as the South Dakota Legislature has disposed of legislative proposals pertaining to these topics during its 2022 Legislative session. In order to help clarify the concerns behind this intent, this letter will itemize several specific grant types within this broader category.

The JCA anticipates that legislation barring certain practices often collectively referred to as “action civics” or “project-based civics” from South Dakota’s education system. The anticipated legislation would also bar from South Dakota’s education system training in, or curricula infused with, certain concepts often characterized individually or collectively as “Critical Race Theory.” It is the intent of JCA that applications for grants that would violate any of the prohibitions contained in this anticipated

