In 2022, Californians for Equal Rights Foundation (CFER) has made progress in areas including public education, public contracting and public safety. Through awareness building, knowledge dissemination, grassroots organizing, legal advocacy and coalition building, we have advanced equal rights for all, merit-based considerations and free speech. This report compiles important highlights on CFER’s work in 2022.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2022 may be a stressful year for all of us but I hope you are still hopeful! And we have reasons to be hopeful! After a busy year, CFER has demonstrated success in many areas of our operations and is eager to amplify hope and faith in the years to come. We firmly believe that your involvement in local school districts will be the key element to our future successes.

Grassroots organizing continues to be one of our main focuses. In San Dieguito Union High School District (SDUHSD), we have had the opportunity to collaborate with brave parents after blowing the whistle on race-based practices within the school district. Thanks to the swift and proactive actions of local parents, academic transparency and accountability have greatly improved in SDUHSD. Proactive parents even elected one independent board trustee who defeated a union-backed incumbent in a heavily left-leaning district. This could have not happened without involved and caring parents and community members. We see similar parental right movements in other school districts in Chula Vista, Coronado, Carlsbad, Escondido and Ramona. Their successes give parents a voice in the school district board. CFER aspires to be their support and resource.

These victories in local school districts can be replicated elsewhere because when you care, you will be able to find a pathway to win and CFER is willing to be your support. Therefore, in 2023, we will seek to promote and apply valuable lessons we learned from these school districts to other communities and school districts in California. We look forward to working with engaged parents and community members who make policy monitoring and stakeholder engagement in public education a reality! Contact us now if you feel the calling and want to be more engaged in your local school district. We will share our practical lessons and experience so that you can have success.

CFER has noted the pipeline relationship between public education and public safety. Race-based thinking often perpetuates both areas, resulting in racial preferences in education policies that attack meritocracy and equality on one hand, and race-based treatment in criminal justice reforms that corrode public safety at large. Failures in public education enable rising criminality which threatens public safety. Rising threats to public safety compromise quality of public education especially in unsafe communities. We have to break this vicious cycle. As such, we have expanded our operations in the arena of analyzing public safety policies and reforms. We stand behind merit-based, proactive common-sense law enforcement.

In legal advocacy, CFER won a favorable settlement in our lawsuit against the State of California. The state agreed to remove two religious affirmations from the ethnic studies state model. It was a win! We also sued Alameda County for two race-preferential contracting programs, which is the first lawsuit defending California’s constitutional guarantee of equal protection in recent years. We will keep you updated since the case is still ongoing. Also, in support of the two Supreme Court cases against race-conscious college admissions, CFER filed another round of amicus brief.
When it comes to **policy monitoring**, CFER continues to serve as a watchdog, informing the public about new legislation and initiatives pertaining to equal treatment, merit and education. With the help of whistleblower parents and citizens, we have been able to expose problematic practices and policies at local and state levels, including the California Upward Mobility Act and San Diego’s PrOTECT Act.

As one of the two principal organizations opposing the California Upward Mobility Act, we exhausted our efforts to inform state lawmakers and the public about the unconstitutional racial preferences in the bill. Under pressure, the California State Senate eventually removed all unconstitutional racial quota provisions in the act before its codification. In the future, we must continue to be a watchdog. Meanwhile, we will need your help to give us leads on problematic policies at both state and local levels. You can utilize this [hotline](mailto:cfere@gov) to contact us!

As far as our **research** function is concerned, CFER is proud to continuously offer first-hand resources including legislative digests, an expanded project into race-centric teaching at the school district level and the influences of teachers’ unions in school board races.

Last but not least, CFER held its **first annual conference** in September in San Diego. Attended by many friends and allies, our inaugural conference featured keynote speeches and panel discussions from nationally recognized experts, scholars and policy makers. It added to our public awareness building mission. As a result of local organizing in San Diego, many parents-backed candidates won a plethora of school district races in 2022. We hope that you will be part of the movement for 2024 and beyond too!

In short, we have had an eventful year. Your support, collaboration and trust are instrumental in making positive impacts in your local community where CFER has had the opportunity to leave a footprint. We are grateful to you and hope you continue to put [your trust in CFER](mailto:cfere@gov) as we move forward!
Inaugural Annual Conference in San Diego

On September 3rd, 2022, CFER hosted its first annual conference "Fighting Preferences and Indoctrination in Education" at the University of San Diego. Leading policy makers, academics, public advocates and community leaders gathered to discuss the current state of public education, ramifications of various progressive ideological proposals in the American education, and proven strategies to counterbalance the illiberal trend of indoctrination in both higher education and K-12.

The convention featured an impressive lineup of nationally recognized speakers, including: Hon. Gloria J. Romero, former State Senator and the State Senate's Democratic majority leader; Hon. Kevin Kiley, State Assembly Member; Dr. Williamson Evers, Senior Fellow at the Independent Institute and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education; Dr. Lance Izumi, Senior Director of Center for Education at the Pacific Research Institute; Professor Gail Heriot, University of San Diego Professor of Law and U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner; Professor Richard Sander, UCLA Jesse Dukeminier Professor in Law; Professor Erec Smith, York College Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition and Co-Founder of Free Black Thought; Dr. Elana Fishbein, Founder and President of No Left Turn in Education; Dr. Joe Nalven, Anthropologist, Philosopher and Former Faculty at the San Diego State University; Hon. Mari Barke, Orange County Board of Education President; Hon. Chris Arend, Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Board President; Mr. Dan Morenoff, Executive Director of the American Civil Rights Project; Mr. Eli Steele, Award-winning filmmaker and writer; Mr. Wen Fa, Senior Attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation; Mr. Michael Bowen, Co-Founder of Free Black Thought.

Experts, advocates and key stakeholders joined a full house of attendees to share success stories, informative resources and policy insights on how to build excellence and reclaim public education.
Supporting Equality, Merit and Free Speech in K-12

In K-12 education, we have continued to focus on empowering parents and concerned citizens with knowledge and information pertaining to curricular changes and policy changes at the local school district level.

When Castro Valley Unified School District considered a proposal to implement liberated ethnic studies, a radical and biased version of ethnic studies rejected by the California state legislature and governor, CFER issued an action alert informing local parents and community members about the fiscal impact and ideological ramifications of the proposal.

In San Dieguito Union High School District (SDUHSD), CFER engaged its new leadership advocating for educational excellence. When the superintendent made biased remarks on the racial achievement gap, we provided the community with timely action alerts. Subsequently, courageous parents united for accountability and transparency.

Also, in SDUHSD, CFER alerted the local community to a “hate speech” regulation resolution that was introduced by a union-backed school board trustee. Due to parental opposition and a formal letter of legal threat coordinated by CFER, the illiberal proposal was abandoned. A victory for free speech and parental rights!

To promote the merit-based principle in academic evaluation, we also worked to expose an equitable grading policy in Palo Alto Unified School District. Many parents showed up to the school board meeting to oppose quotas and race-based treatment of their children.
Championing Academic Freedom and Meritocracy in Higher Education

CFER’s work on higher education this year continues to tackle the issue of race consciousness in undergraduate admissions. In addition, we have also addressed the rising tide of ideological capture and cancel culture on college campuses.

CFER team testified at University of California Regents board meetings, calling attention to the politicized nature of a proposal to add Critical Ethnic Studies to the A-G undergraduate admissions. We also sent an action alert to parents and other stakeholders, urging them to oppose the teaching of ethnic studies through racialized and radical lenses.

When a San Diego State University professor was removed from his teaching duties for invoking “racial slurs” in his classes on racism and critical thinking, CFER sent an official letter to the university president criticizing the attacks on the professor’s freedom of speech.

Venturing into Public Safety

This year, CFER started advocating for equal treatment in the area of public safety. We promoted an action alert against a city ordinance in San Diego named “Preventing Overpolicing Through Equitable Community Treatment (PrOTECT).” In doing so, CFER joins San Diego Police Officers Association to oppose race-based thinking in criminal law enforcement.
Supporting Parental Rights Bills

For the 2022 California legislative session, CFER collaborated with state lawmakers in the Assembly and the Senate to introduce pro-parent and pro-transparency legislation in K-12 education. CFER team attended many legislative hearings as expert witnesses in support of such legislation, including the Parents Bill of Rights and a senate bill on parental review. CFER’s interest in the proposals is derived from our opposition to thought experiment, indoctrination and race-based disparate treatment.

Success in Helping Delay Equitable Math Framework

Since 2021, CFER has presented the public with evidence why the new state math framework attacks merit and excellence. After joining congressional leaders and grassroots activists in a bipartisan campaign against woke math, CFER helped pressure the California Department of Education to delay its consideration of the framework.

Success in Facilitating the Removal of Racial Preferences in the Upward Mobility Bill

CFER cooperated with the Pacific Legal Foundation and forced the California State Legislature to remove provisions of preferential treatment in the California Upward Mobility Act of 2022. CFER was ready to launch legal actions if the State Senate were to refuse making amendments.
LEGAL ADVOCACY

Supporting SFFA’s Harvard and UNC Lawsuits

With the help of the American Civil Rights Project, CFER filed another round of amicus briefs with the United States Supreme Court, supporting Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) in its challenge to the race-based admissions policies of Harvard and UNC. We urged the court to end racial discrimination once and for all.

Settling the Ethnic Studies Lawsuit against the State of California favorably

In January, CFER and co-plaintiffs, represented by the Thomas More Society, entered a favorable settlement with the State of California, the California Department of Education and the State Board of Education. The state agreed to remove the two religious chants challenged in our lawsuit, issue a public notice regarding the removal and pay our attorney fees.

Filing a Civil Rights Complaint against Poway Unified School District

We represented a bi-racial father who was silenced and smeared by Poway Unified School District for criticizing the school district’s equity policies and ethnic studies curriculums. In its response, the school district admitted teaching anti-racism and systemic racism.

Challenging Biased Teaching in San Diego Unified School District

When student whistleblowers shared information with CFER on a high school English class in which the teacher defined conservatives, whites and Christians as fascists, we submitted an administrative complaint.
ALLIANCE BUILDING

Co-Sponsoring the Historic Rally for Equal Education Rights

On October 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2022, CFER co-sponsored a rally to advocate for equal education rights in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA). Organized by the Asian American Coalition for Education, this historic event demonstrated strong support for merit-based college admissions on the eve of the Supreme Court’s hearing oral arguments in the two race-preferential admissions cases.

Exposing ADL’s Biased Notion of “Racism”

In light of a new definition on racism from the Anti-Defamation League which borrows from critical race theory, CFER led a diverse coalition of 22 national and regional organizations in an official letter. We implored ADL to embrace an accurate and non-political definition and do away with inflammatory mischaracterizations of racism. The redefinition was eventually recalled by ADL due to public pressure.

Jointly Releasing the Model Education Licensure Code

CFER joined the National Association of Scholars, California Policy Center, Goldwater Institute, James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal, John Locke Foundation, Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Palm Beach Freedom Institute, and Washington Policy Center in releasing three model for reforming education schools and the education licensure process.
ROBUST RESEARCH

Launching the New CFER Website

In September 2022, we unveiled our brand-new website with upgrades in contents and design. While the new site retains most of the functions from the previous version, it features important improvements, including a new “Resources” portal.

Legislative Digests on New State Bills

CFER published a detailed report analyzing the substantive effects and fiscal impact of 16 new state bills introduced in 2022 to the California State Legislature. We also published a legislative digest on bills pertaining to labor and government and another report on proposals that promoted action civics in public education.

Expanding Research on Implementation of CRT in 100 Local School Districts

To build upon our initial research pilot that looked into school-district-level data on the implementation of diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) initiatives, ethnic studies courses and other ideologically focused issues, we analyzed an additional 47 school districts throughout California. The database is first of its kinds.
MEDIA OUTREACH

Thanks to our supporters who shared real-time information in their communities with us and to the media contacts we have cultivated, CFER has obtained press coverage from national, regional and local media platforms. Our work exposing political indoctrination and educating the public on our causes has been featured by National Review, Fox News, Washington Examiner, American Institute of Economic Research, National Association of Scholars, Washington Times, CalMatters, California Globe, Los Angeles Times, and many others. CFER has also written opinion pieces and columns for Minding the Campus, Townhall, The San Diego Union-Tribune, James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal, The Center Square, The Epoch Times, Southern California News Group and more.

We will continue to strive to partner up with our friends and supporters to produce more and better media coverage!

[Image of media coverage articles]