

The *Albemarle County School Board* Case

Case Name: *C.I. v. Albemarle County School Board*

Case Action: Appealed to the Virginia Court of Appeals on Monday, June 27, 2022

Significance: Whether parents can act on their right to direct their children's education and protect their civil liberties



Background: A diverse group of parents, represented by Alliance Defending Freedom, are challenging Albemarle County School Board's enforcement of a discriminatory policy that sows racially divisive ideology into the classroom. The policy violates students' civil rights by mandating classroom activities that demean and attack students based on their race, ethnicity, and religion. It also forces them to support ideas that go against their beliefs. Any opinion not aligned with the school's radical ideology is silenced and can be punished, based on the school's redefinition of "racism." Parents have a right to direct the upbringing of their children, but the Albemarle County School Board is trampling on this right. Parents are unable to opt their children out of lessons that include hostile racial stereotyping, and as a result, these children are being taught to judge everyone and everything through the lens of race. ADF attorneys representing these racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse clients have appealed the case to the Virginia Court of Appeals, asking the court to uphold the civil rights of parents and their children in school.

Key Points

- Bigotry cannot be defeated by more bigotry, but the Albemarle County School Board's policy forces students to judge everyone and everything through the lens of race. This violates these parents' and children's deeply held religious beliefs about the dignity and humanity of every person.
- Children should not be forced to say that the color of their skin defines them and their future, and schools should not be hiding their ideological classroom practices from parents.
- The Albemarle County School Board's classroom practices based on Critical Race Theory perpetuate racism and divide students from one another based on race.

Key Facts

- The Albemarle County School Board implemented a policy that discriminates against students based on race, ethnicity, and religion.
- This policy is implemented into every aspect of the school's curriculum and there is no choice to opt-out.
- ADF represents parents and their children who are challenging this policy in court.

The Bottom Line: Every student deserves to be treated equally under the law, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or religion. Public schools cannot attack and demean students based on these, or any other characteristics.