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Letters : Opinion: Stop racial discrimination in city schools

Frank Hotchkiss
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It's hard to believe that many important people in Santa Barbara are subliminal, inveterate racists. Alas, so it is, according to a new program to be taught in Santa Barbara public schools.

The school district has launched a policy that maintains that any and all Western culture persons (read whites) are subliminal racists. In other words, we should discriminate on the basis of race against white Santa Barbarans. Imagine that being taught to elementary school children who just want to have fun with their peers, whatever they look like.

Rightfully aghast at this prospect, a nonprofit called Fair Education Santa Barbara has filed a suit in federal court in Los Angeles to halt this false, harmful, discriminatory message from being imposed on children in the name of fairness.

Truth be known, if this policy is adopted, it will eviscerate the district. Any parent opposed to this anti-white philosophy, and who can afford to, will yank their kids out of there and home-school them, or send them to a private school devoid of such a view. That will be mostly the white kids, so we'll end up with virtually segregated schools again — the last thing we want. Not only will the highest-achieving students in the district flee, but so will many dedicated teachers who want nothing more than to impart the basics of a good education to their charges free of political indoctrination.

"The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race," Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in 2007, "is to stop discriminating on the basis of race."

Santa Barbara should follow Justice Roberts' direction.

Frank Hotchkiss is a former member of the Santa Barbara City Council.

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