

What you need to know:

Foreign Adversaries in K-12 Education

How are foreign adversaries influencing K-12 education in the United States?

As our sister organization, Parents Defending Education, has uncovered, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is infiltrating American K-12 classrooms. More than 143 school districts fostered ties with the Chinese Ministry of Education or other CCP affiliated entities. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Virginia—which often ranks as the nation’s top high school—received more than \$3.6 million from CCP-affiliated businesses over the course of a decade. In November 2023, Chinese president and CCP general secretary Xi Jinping announced that he’s prepared to bring 50,000 American students to visit China in the next five years.

Why is this a problem?

The CCP is actively working to unseat the United States as the world’s first and foremost military and economic superpower. Further, the Chinese government is actively committing genocide and other grave human rights abuses in China and abroad. China’s involvement in K-12 schools is fundamentally tied to its political aspirations, and we cannot allow American children to be used as pawns in this longterm, soft-power scheme.

When they say...	You can say...
This is racist. You wouldn't have an issue if France offered these same programs.	The problem is the Communist regime in China—not the Chinese people. The Chinese Communist Party poses the greatest threat to freedom in the U.S. and abroad , and the CCP does not belong in our education system. To unseat the U.S. as the world’s superpower, the CCP must ensure that the next generation of American leaders are amenable to CCP political aims. That’s exactly what it’s doing by embedding itself in the American education system.
But Chinese language courses and exchange trips are great opportunities for kids! How could you take this away from them?	Students can and should have opportunities to learn about Chinese language and culture. But the CCP, which is actively committing genocide and poses a serious threat to the national security of the United States, should not dictate what American students learn about China. Instead, schools could bring in Chinese Americans who fled communist China to teach American students about the rich history of China before communism.
We’ve always had exchange programs. What’s the problem with these trips?	China is funding these exchanges, and while the trips might be all-expense paid, they certainly are not “free.” The CCP dictates the narratives that American children are taught about China. Instead of learning about the Chinese government’s genocide of Uyghurs, the Tiananmen Square Massacre, or the 30-45 million Chinese who were killed during Mao’s great leap forward, American students will be left with the impression that China and the U.S. are friends. That could not be further from the truth.

Read Parents Defending Education’s [Little Red Classrooms](#) report for more information

