



Nicholas Smith <nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com>

## Your posting on FPF

Nicholas Smith <nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 5:06 PM

To: Front Porch Forum <membersupport@frontporchforum.com>

Thanks for the response to yesterday's email. Please point to what part of your Terms Of Use my post from today violated.

I'm well aware of what the first amendment protects and who is subject to it, which is why I did not bring it up. I'm glad to hear you are familiar with it though.

As far as receiving grant funding, while I may have incorrectly insinuated that you have received grants from the State in the past. I will be looking into any funding, promotion, or advertisement that was provided to you during your partnership with Vermont Council on Rural Development.

As an aside, how can I report posts that slander myself or our organization on your forum? I see you don't seem to apply TOU [7.bb](#) or [7.ee](#) as liberally when it comes to those posts.

Thank you again for the clarity that I am sure you will provide,  
Nick

On Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 4:38 PM Front Porch Forum <membersupport@frontporchforum.com> wrote:

Hi Nick. Thanks for your response. Our Terms of Use outlines the content that is not permitted on our private service – such as personal attacks against neighbors, racist statements, or conspiracy theories that could erode public health or our democracy.

Your posting connects equity initiatives to specific educational outcomes without providing evidence or sources. Such claims run counter to FPF's TOU. Please see the relevant sections below:

### 7. CONDUCT

You agree not to post, email, or otherwise make available Content:

c) that harasses, degrades, intimidates or is hateful toward an individual or group of individuals on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, age, or disability; or economic, housing, or immigration status (also see <https://frontporchforum.com/racial-justice>)

Additionally, you agree NOT to:

bb) use Front Porch Forum in a way counter to its community-building mission. Misuse includes, but is not limited to... making inflammatory or divisive statements, inciting violence, or otherwise driving away other members (see details about [Keeping It Civil](#));

ee) post misinformation meant to incite fear, hate, prejudice...or content that misleads people about elections or other civic processes;

Please note: (1) FPF has not received any grants from the State of Vermont, and (2) the First Amendment prevents the government, not private businesses, from abridging citizens' rights to free speech.

Thank you,  
Member Support  
[FrontPorchForum.com](https://FrontPorchForum.com) - Essential civic infrastructure in Vermont  
Need help? Check the [Help Center](#).

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### Comments to School Board Candidates

Nicholas Smith • ([nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com](mailto:nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com)) • Bradley Street, Milton

Posted to: Milton  
Feb 16, 2023  
Election

I have noticed that there have been a lot of comments and questions directed at myself and Allison with regards to our stance on a variety of topics. Unfortunately, FPF is not allowing us to respond to these comments at this time. I will continue to inquire as to why we are unable to have our polite and factual responses published. In the meantime, if you are interested in our responses to some of these comments I would defer you to the VPACT website ([vpact.org](http://vpact.org)). I will continue to respond to comments on that website until we have resolved the issue with FPF censoring our posts.

I know this will upset some of you, since you have stated in the past you would like these comments to be posted publicly and that you do not like to be directed to third party websites, but this is currently the only remedy. It is ironic that recent posts call for critical thinking, exposure to a variety of ideas/opinions, challenging narratives, and rejecting indoctrination, when we can see it happening in front of our faces. Even more worrisome is that it is being promulgated by an organization that has received state funds via numerous grants in the past.

On Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 5:53 PM, Nicholas Smith <[nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com](mailto:nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com)> wrote:

Please provide a citation of which portion of my post violated your terms of service (TOS) and what section of your TOS it is violating. Since you are/have received multiple state grants and your email proclaims to be an "Essential civic infrastructure in Vermont" I would like to know specifically what your limitations on speech are.

Nicholas Smith  
716-778-4353  
[smithnd92@gmail.com](mailto:smithnd92@gmail.com)

On Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 5:39 PM Front Porch Forum <[membersupport@frontporchforum.com](mailto:membersupport@frontporchforum.com)> wrote:

Hi Nick. Thanks for your posting, below. Front Porch Forum will not publish it as written, however, because it does not comply with our [Terms of Use](#).

Member Support  
[FrontPorchForum.com](http://FrontPorchForum.com) - Essential civic infrastructure in Vermont  
Need help? Check the [Help Center](#).

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**Re: Student Performance**

Nicholas Smith • ([nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com](mailto:nicksmith4mtsd@gmail.com)) • Bradley Street, Milton

Posted to: Milton  
Feb 14, 2023  
Election

Hi Tom,

Thanks for your post highlighting your preference to support critical theories over conventional learning for children. I admit I would have to strongly disagree with you, especially since the sacrifice is so substantial. We aren't talking about a minority of students being left behind or underperforming, we are talking about between 62-73% of students below grade level in English Language Arts and 78-84% of students below grade level in Math within our elementary school. That's around 15% or more below Vermont's average, which is already horrendous to think about. 67-52% below proficiency rate in ELA and 78-82% below proficiency rate in Math within our middle school (still around 10-15% below the state's rates on average). In our high school we are at 46% below proficiency rate in ELA and 62% below proficiency rate in Math (both are around the state average). All of these numbers are from the 2021 Vermont Education Dashboard (Vermont Education Dashboard: Assessment | Agency of Education).

While COVID has certainly exasperated these deficiencies, it certainly didn't cause them. I would suggest you take a look at the rates from 2016-2019, which were already on a downward trend and still well below the state average proficiency rates in most cases.

As far as critical theories go, I don't think you have a clear grasp of what a Critical Theory is. Critical Theory has nothing to do with thinking critically and discussing or evaluating topics of contention, of which I am (and all other candidates that I'm aware of) are in support of. Nor does it have to do with "facts." Critical Theories seek to dismantle existing structures and systems by focusing all critiques through a singular lens, leaving no opportunity for nuance or real understanding.

In the end, what really matters is that our students receive the best education possible, and the track we are on right now doesn't appear to be affording them that. Not only that, but what ever happened to children being children?

Nick