



Every four years, teachers in the United States use the presidential election to impart valuable lessons to students about the electoral process, democracy, government and the responsibilities of citizenship.

But, for students and teachers alike, this year's primary season is starkly different from any in recent memory. The results of an online survey conducted by Teaching Tolerance suggest that the campaign is having a profoundly negative effect on children and classrooms.

It's producing an alarming level of fear and anxiety among children of color and inflaming racial and ethnic tensions in the classroom. Many students worry about being deported.

Other students have been emboldened by the divisive, often juvenile rhetoric in the campaign. Teachers have noted an increase in bullying, harassment and intimidation of students whose races, religions or nationalities have been the verbal targets of candidates on the campaign trail...

Our survey of approximately 2,000 K-12 teachers was not scientific. Our email subscribers and those who visit our website are not a random sample of teachers nationally, and those who chose to respond to our survey are likely to be those who are most concerned about the impact of the presidential campaign on their students and schools.

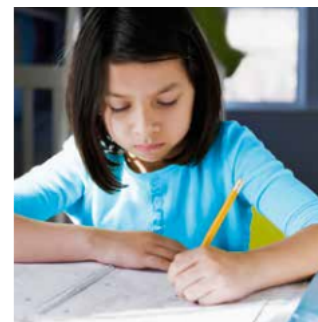
But the data we collected is the richest source of information that we know of about the effect of the presidential campaign on education in our country. And there is nothing counterintuitive about the results. They show a disturbing nationwide problem, one that is particularly acute in schools with high concentrations of minority children.

ABOUT THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

The Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery, Alabama, is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) civil rights organization founded in 1971 and dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society. It neither endorses political candidates nor engages in electioneering activities.

ABOUT TEACHING TOLERANCE

Founded in 1991, Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, is dedicated to reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations and supporting equitable school experiences for our nation's children.



Teachers report their students from immigrant families are anxious about a wall between the U.S. and Mexico and fearful they will be deported.



BREITBART JOBS

Founded in 2005 by conservative icon Andrew Breitbart, Breitbart News Network is the biggest source of breaking news and analysis, thought-leading commentary, and original reporting curated and written specifically for the new generation of independent and conservative thinkers.

WIKILEAKS EMAILS SHOW TEACHERS' UNION AND DNC TRIED TO TIE TRUMP TO BULLYING

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Emails leaked by Wikileaks show an effort between the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) to link GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump to promoting school bullying through the example of his political rhetoric.

The joint effort by both the DNC and the AFT was based on a survey of 2,000 teachers conducted by the leftwing Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), which prides itself on tracking extremists and hate groups. The group concluded that “the presidential campaign is having a profoundly negative impact on schoolchildren across the country.”

SPLC admits its “survey” was “not scientific,” and claims that “out of 5,000 total comments, more than 1,000 mentioned Donald Trump.” The organization provides the leading statements it gave to teachers who were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed:

- There has been an increase in anti-immigrant sentiment at my school since the 2016 presidential campaign began.
- There has been an increase in anti-Muslim sentiment at my school since the 2016 presidential campaign began.
- I have heard an increase in uncivil political discourse at my school since the 2016 presidential campaign began.
- My students have expressed concern about what might happen to them or their families after the election.

Apparently none of the 2,000 teachers surveyed are reported to have expressed any concern about the example of moral corruption presented by the Democrat candidate, Hillary Clinton.