

JAY INSLEE
Governor



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May 13, 2021

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 2, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5405 entitled:

“AN ACT Relating to racial equity analysis for the joint legislative audit and review committee work.”

Section 2 directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to complete a racial equity analysis on the impact of the restrictions on in-person K-12 education put in place since the COVID-19 state of emergency was declared on February 29, 2020, for all counties in Washington. Racial equity in education is a longstanding issue that was made worse by the COVID pandemic. Beyond the necessary school restrictions imposed, COVID impacts on education also included, but are not limited to, public health, economic disruption, teacher safety and loss of child care. I believe a broader review of racial inequities in K-12 is needed, and I will ask the Washington Student Achievement Council to conduct this review.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 2 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5405.

With the exception of Section 2, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5405 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", written over a faint circular stamp.

Jay Inslee
Governor