

*Copy and paste this email template about History Education:*

Dear [Insert School District Board],

Systemic racism has plagued our society and educational institutions are no exception. From the history of school segregation and its lingering effects today, the inaccurate and often white-washed history of our nation that is taught to our children, the detrimental effects of the school-to-prison pipeline, the lack of educators of color for students to identify with, and the barriers that prevent students of color from attending higher education and obtaining degrees.

Youth are owed accountability and responsibility from their teachers and school administrators when it comes to the content they receive and how they are supported in learning environments. Racial inequities in systems of education will continue to impact generation after generation unless we choose to change. Racism CAN be eliminated – and it starts with providing a historically accurate account of U.S. History.

While Kitsap County has taken steps to address many areas of inequities and has succeeded in making measurable differences in the inclusivity and diversity of our classrooms and curriculum, we can do better.

All history educators need to provide age-appropriate, transparent and factual accounts of the racist roots of our country's foundation including, but not limited to, white supremacy and colonization, murder of Indigenous Peoples, true accounts of slavery and its impact on Black and African American people to this day, and Black history to be taught as an ongoing inclusive subject throughout the whole year - not just during Black History Month.

Please commit to purging all history books that are false, inaccurate or provide a rose lens to the concepts of violence against BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color). Please identify and use proper history books that are credited for their historical accuracy.

Kitsap County Schools have the opportunity to be a change agent and set the bar for all other schools to look to for inspiration and leadership in the area of dismantling racism in educational institutions. We are responsible for our children's understanding of racism and how it impacts the systems we operate in today. Let's equip them with the factual information needed to have these hard conversations so they can join the movement with the tools necessary to dismantle racism wherever it exists. We implore you to do the right thing and pave a pathway that empowers teachers to do what they do best: prepare students for their futures by fostering critical thinking. Knowledge is Power.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kitsap County Community Member,

[Insert name]