

No on SJ0005

The best way to combat prejudice is to foster understanding—to focus on commonalities and provide students opportunities to create friendships with other students who are different from themselves in some ways and similar to themselves in other ways.

Teaching and modeling kindness as a principle that should be applied generally is the best way to do this. Research has shown that hyper focus on diversity, labels, and discrimination actually has the opposite of the intended results. Instead of seeing others as part of a valuable shared humanity, it leads to division, anxiety, and suspicion.

Affirming the importance of every member of the community is a worthy goal. Students are already taught the history of countries and groups with attention to the contributions of historically marginalized groups.

Mandating an additional emphasis on the teaching of history of discrimination in specific categories is likely to have the opposite of the intended effect.

Additionally, sexual orientation and gender identity are sexual topics and should not be mandated for students beginning in elementary school without parental opt out.

For these reasons, SJ0005 does not meet its goals and will not have positive results.

Diversity Training Can Make Race Relations Worse

<https://www.inc.com/suzanne-lucas/study-dei-training-could-make-racial-tensions-worse/910245>
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‘Anti-racist materials induce prejudicial attitudes and racial suspicion’

<https://hbr.org/2024/06/research-the-most-common-dei-practices-actually-undermine-diversity>