

Advocacy

Maryland Jewish
DAY RECEPTION 2024



Holocaust Education and Combatting Antisemitism in our Schools

HB71 - Education – Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program – Established (Del. Mark Edelson)

The Maryland State Department of Education's Standards and Framework for Middle School Social Studies curricula have recently been updated for Holocaust education and antisemitism. We recognize that it is important to give our teachers the tools they need to both understand and properly teach this difficult material to their students. Without funding for professional development and materials, this can be hard to achieve. This bill would establish the \$500,000 Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program as an annual appropriation in the budget under the Maryland State Department of Education. These grants would be available to all 24 jurisdictions to assist with Holocaust education in public schools. It authorizes a local school system to apply to the Department for a grant of no more than \$50,000 to be used only for certain Holocaust-related training, materials, and activities.

SB1058/HB1181 - Education – Curriculum Standards – Antihate and Holocaust Education (Educate to Stop the Hate Act) (Sen. Ben Kramer/Del. C.T. Wilson)

One of the best ways to prevent history from repeating itself is through education. This legislation would require the State Board of Education to implement comprehensive antihate curricula in public elementary, middle, and high school classrooms as well as nonpublic elementary, middle, and high schools that receive state funding by January 1, 2025. This would include utilizing historical contexts that have led to contemporary racism and prejudice and the Holocaust.

- Elementary school social studies curricula will be remodeled to incorporate instruction addressing the Holocaust in the Grade 5 Unit.
- Middle School social studies curricula will be enhanced to further detail the roots of antisemitism that led to the Holocaust in preparation for further study in high school.
- High school history framework will be required to include the contributions of historically disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups.

County boards will be required to dedicate a portion of their funding to substantive professional development on the teaching requirements, which may qualify for continuing education credits.

Advocacy

Maryland Jewish
DAY RECEPTION 2024



HB1386 - Education - Employee Training and Holocaust Education Study – Requirements (Del. Vanessa Atterbeary)

In an effort to gauge the current preparedness of our teachers and staff at all levels of education with regard to antisemitism and islamophobia and fill gaps where needed, this legislation would accomplish the following three things:

- require that each employee in public elementary, middle, and high school classrooms, as well as nonpublic elementary, middle, and high schools that receive state funding, be given training on the prevention of antisemitism and islamophobia each year;
- tweak current requirements for “cultural diversity” programing in public institutions of higher education across the state to specifically include training on the prevention of antisemitism and islamophobia; and
- require the Maryland State Department of Education to assess Holocaust education in elementary and secondary schools across the state, and report the findings to the Governor and members of the General Assembly by December 31, 2024.