

Advocacy

Maryland Jewish
DAY RECEPTION 2024



Supporting our Teachers in Holocaust Education

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.

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

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.

Why is this bill good for Maryland and the Jewish Community?

One of the best ways to prevent history from repeating itself is through education. By establishing this fund, Maryland local boards of education will be able to hire the proper entities to train their teachers on Holocaust curriculum; provide needed materials to both teachers and students for effective lessons; and allow funding to go to activities directly related to Holocaust education, which could include field trips, guest speakers, etc.