

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



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May 10, 2011

Dear Superintendent/Principal:

Over the past few months I have received a number of e-mails from educators preparing to align curriculum this summer in accord with the [2009 New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards \(NJCCCS\)](#) and the new [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics](#). The specific question has to do with the districts responsibility regarding the Holocaust/genocide mandate.

**As a reminder, in 1994 the legislature voted unanimously in favor of the mandate and it was then signed into law by Governor Whitman. The intent of the mandate indicated that issues of bias, prejudice and bigotry, including bullying through the teaching of the Holocaust and genocide, shall be included for all children from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

This mandate remains in place and should be incorporated when developing new curriculum. A review of the new English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical subjects suggests that this document can be used as a framework in developing a well articulated multi-disciplinary K-12 Holocaust/genocide program of study.

As a reminder, in grades K-4 the study is not about the atrocities of the Holocaust or genocide, but about anti-bullying, appreciation of others, and acceptance of differences; in other words good character education. This review should also include the materials to be used.

Please do not hesitate to communicate if you have any questions or need any assistance and/or materials.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul B. Winkler  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

PBW/jab



Visit our web site at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/>