September 2018

TO: Executive County Superintendents

FROM: Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

RE: Summer Mailing to Schools

It would be appreciated if the enclosures to this letter could be sent to your superintendents and other schools in your county for distribution to their principals.

Thank you for your continuous support in the fight against bias, bigotry and intolerance wherever and whenever they exist.

Enclosures
ENCLOSURES

- Update
- The Law
- Curriculum Guide Covers
- Publications – Price List and Order Form
- What is Genocide
- List of Recommended New Resources
- Know the ABC’s of Reporting Bias Incidents/Hate Crimes
- Teaching Strategies – Holocaust/Genocide Education
- Promoting Diversity in New Jersey’s Schools
- How to Subscribe to Our Listserv

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State of New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust/Genocide Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 376-3968 - (609) 376-3715
holocaust@doe.nj.gov
http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/

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September 2018

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter and Renaissance School Lead Persons
Principals
District Curriculum Coordinators

FROM: Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

RE: Update

I hope the summer was a pleasant transition both professionally and personally and that the new school year begins well and is successful educationally. Please review and forward this letter and the enclosed information to your school leaders.

I have included a number of items with this letter (enclosed and available on the web) that should be forwarded to appropriate personnel in your school in relation to the Holocaust/genocide mandate and the entire issue of teaching about character education, anti-bullying and bias/prejudice reduction.

Before the issues fade from the memory, please review material on 9/11 for instruction in the classroom - http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/911/.

The Holocaust/Genocide Resource Centers reported their programs for students, educators, survivors and the community and the information was sent to the Governor as part of the Commission’s “End of Year – 2017/18 Report.” The following are the totals for all Centers: 577 Programs servicing 70,997 students, 8,260 educators, 2,152 survivors and 68,423 community members.

During the 2017/18 school year, the Commission continued to coordinate programs bringing together students and survivors. Thousands of students have been involved in the process over the past year. It is recommended that programs be implemented in the schools bringing together students and survivors.

Thank you for your continued support in the battle against bias, prejudice and intolerance wherever and whenever they exist and if the materials are not age appropriate for students in your school, please pass on to other interested persons.

Enclosures
September 2018

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter and Renaissance School Lead Persons  
Principals  
District Curriculum Coordinators

FROM: Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director  
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education


The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education has received a number of inquiries from educators on whether or not school districts and charter schools must include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in elementary and secondary education.

As a reminder, in 1994 the legislature voted unanimously in favor of an act requiring education on the Holocaust and genocide in elementary and secondary education and it subsequently signed into law by Governor Whitman. The law indicates 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-12th grade. Because this is a law and in Statute any changes in standards would not impact the requirement of education on this topic in all New Jersey public schools.

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

For recommendations of incorporating Holocaust and genocide education into grades K – 12 curriculum, the Commission encourages educators to use the study guides available on the Commission website at, New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education - Curriculum. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission at holocaust@doe.state.nj.us if you need more information on the law or additional resources.

Attachment
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED MARCH 10, 1994

Sponsored by Senators EWING, McCREEVEY and SINACRA

AN ACT regarding genocide education in the public schools and
supplementing chapter 35. of Title 18A of the New Jersey
Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
State of New Jersey:
1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
   a. New Jersey has recently become the focal point of national
      attention for the most venomous and vile of ethnic hate speeches.
   b. There is an inescapable link between violence and vandalism
      and ethnic and racial intolerance. The New Jersey Department
      of Education itself has formally recognized the existence of the
      magnitude of this problem in New Jersey schools by the
      formation of a Commissioner's Task Force on Violence and
      Vandalism.
   c. New Jersey is proud of its enormous cultural diversity. The
      teaching of tolerance must be made a priority if that cultural
      diversity is to remain one of the State's strengths.
   d. National studies indicate that fewer than 25% of students
      have an understanding of organized attempts throughout history
      to eliminate various ethnic groups through a systematic program
      of mass killing or genocide.
   e. The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education,
      created pursuant to P.L.1991, c.193 (C.18A:4A-1 et seq.), several
      years ago expanded its mission to study and recommend
      curricular material on a wide range of genocides. The Holocaust
      Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials
      to local districts.
2. a. Every board of education shall include instruction on the
       Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum
       of all elementary and secondary school pupils.
   b. The instruction shall enable pupils to identify and analyze
      applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to
      understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice and
      discrimination; and to understand that issues of moral dilemma
      and conscience have a profound impact on life. The instruction
      shall further emphasize the personal responsibility that each
      citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever
      it happens.
3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply
   to curriculum offerings in the 1994-95 school year.

Attest

PETER VERNIERO
CHIEF COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR

APPROVED

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
GOVERNOR
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Return to:
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625
WHAT IS GENOCIDE

Although the term genocide was coined in the twentieth century, it describes a phenomenon that is as old as recorded history. Baillet (1912, 151-152) tells us that genocides were common in predynastic Egypt; the Assyrians (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990, 58-61) claim to have practiced it, if we are to accept their own reports; and several cases are to be found in the Old Testament (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990, 61-63).

The Old Testament contains several quite specific descriptions that are of interest to us. The Amalekites are reported to have been annihilated several times, which might raise questions about the historical accuracy of the reports or about the completeness with which the annihilations were carried out. Our interest is not so much in these details as in the style in which they were reported. That style allows us to conclude that the physical destruction of the entire people of defeated opponents was not unusual at that time, nor that it evoked any humanitarian outrage. The victims seemed to have accepted their fate as the usual lot of the losers at the same time as they were lamenting their losses.

The origins of genocide are shrouded in the unrecorded past. In antiquity, because it is always reported in connection with wars, we can make an educated guess about its roots. City-states and empires were very small by modern standards; many of them were located in the so-called golden triangle, the modern Middle East. The geopolitical dimensions of this area seemed to have been designed to produce almost continuous warfare. The valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates are very fertile with few natural boundaries. The region lies across the trade routes between Asia, Europe, and Africa. Similar criteria apply to the Nile Valley. Thus, opportunities for competition and conflicts leading to wars seemed to be ever present. However, these wars initially did not settle anything; the defeated party went home, recruited and trained another army, produced more and sometimes better weapons, and then returned to fight another war in order to recoup losses and wreak revenge. It did not take much imagination for someone to decide that the only way to preserve a victory was to annihilate the vanquished enemy entirely, not only the combat forces. Baillet (1912, 167-168) argues that this method of concluding a victorious campaign lasted for about 1,000 years in Egypt before it fell into disuse. This change is not the result of any rise in humanitarian concerns, but rather the realization that the victims would be much more valuable alive than dead.

The states in the fertile crescent were extraordinarily labor intensive because their fertile valleys required elaborate irrigation systems; because the large number of gods they worshipped all required temples; and because few rulers were content with the palaces of their predecessors and therefore spent huge resources on new palaces, or burial sites in Egypt, to glorify their reign. Thus, the new realization that the captives of a conquered enemy were much more useful as slaves than as corpses became widespread in the area.

Genocides continued to be performed by states and empires in order to eliminate a real or perceived threat, in order to terrorize a real or imaginary enemy, or in order to acquire economic resources that others owned but which could not be carried off as loot or booty. These three motives were usually present at the same time, although one of them tended to predominate in any particular situation. Of course, the farther we go back into the past, the more difficult it becomes to obtain evidence of the motives of the perpetrators.

In antiquity it is particularly difficult to account for the fates of peoples. From inscriptions, clay tablets, and parchments we know a great many names of peoples about whom hardly anything else is known. Even when we know something of their history, some of them have disappeared without our knowing what happened to them. The classic illustration is the story of the Hittites who are well known to us from scripture and Egyptian records (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990, 6061). We know that they conquered their neighbors and built an empire that competed with Assyria and Egypt. Then they disappeared from history without a trace. In fact, it is only in modern times that the remains of their capital were
discovered; it had been burned to the ground and cursed to prevent it from being resettled. Their writing was deciphered, and the peace treaty that they negotiated with Ramses II was decoded. However, we still have no idea what happened to the Hittite people. Were they dispersed to other areas? Did they assimilate into the culture of their conquerors? Or were they slaughtered? Only the development of an archeology of genocide holds any promise of solving that riddle.

The history of empires, right into the modern period, is punctuated by periodic persecutions, sometimes escalating into genocides, which were performed either to build up an empire or to maintain it. One of the important characteristics of these types of genocides is that the victim groups were always located outside the perpetrator society, physically and socially. The campaigns of Athens against Melos, of Rome against Carthage, of Genghis Kahn against several peoples (Chalk and Jonassohn 1990), and of the Crusaders against populations of Antioch and Jerusalem (Runciman 1962), may serve as examples.

Some believe that genocide has become the ultimate human rights problem of the modern world. The term genocide was first used by Raphael Lemkin in 1944 during World War II, in which more civilians had died than soldiers. Lemkin, a professor of law in Poland who escaped the Nazis, used the term to describe a “...coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves.” Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959) devoted his life to a single goal: the outlawing of a crime so extraordinary that language had not yet recognized its existence. In 1944, Lemkin made one step towards his goal when he created the word "genocide" taking the word ‘geno’ from the Greek meaning “tribe” and ‘cide’ from the Latin meaning “death” which meant, in his words, "the destruction of a nation or an ethnic group.” While he had lived long enough to see his word popularized and the Genocide Conventions adopted by most of the world, recent history serves as a reminder that laws and treaties are not enough to prevent genocide. On December 9, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Genocide Convention, which defined genocide as follows:

...genocide means any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

While the limitation of Lemkin's definition is its broad nature, that of the United Nations has been criticized as being both broad and narrow (Totten, Parsons, Charny, 1997, p. xxiv). Because neither of these definitions has satisfied many who have sought to apply them to very serious acts against groups of people, we are now confronted with many definitions of genocide, a phenomenon that can be puzzling to young people who are seeking their own set of criteria to help them evaluate the numerous violations of human rights around the world today.

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
KNOW THE A B C's
OF
REPORTING BIAS INCIDENTS/HATE CRIMES

Take action, document and report the following:

A) WRITTEN OR VERBAL WORDS that target...
   Religion  Physical Characteristics
   Race      Disabilities/Challenges
   Gender    National Origin
   Sexual Orientation  Culture

B) AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR (Based on A)
   Fights
   Sexual Harassment
   Gang Activity

C) VANDALISM/GRAFFITI (Based on A)

BE SURE TO PRESERVE THE EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENT IT!

HOW TO REPORT
IN SCHOOL* - Guidance and/or the Principal
OUT OF SCHOOL* - The local police and/or the school

*The county prosecutor is an excellent office to call toward determining the level of
the incident (possible hate crime) and recommendations for next step.

REMEMBER
"Victims should know that they are not alone
and that they have an ally—Be that ally!"

Schools must create a safe environment

The New Jersey Commission
on Holocaust Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625

Remember
Teaching Strategies
Holocaust/Genocide Education

Simulations –
These activities are not recommended as a strategy to teach students about the issues of bias, prejudice and the Holocaust/genocide.

There are many other ways to provide content and effective approaches in the classroom. While on the surface it might sound like a good idea to have children simulate a death camp, a beating, etc., but it does not have a positive or lasting impact and might harm the child psychologically and prohibit real learning from taking place. For instance, you would not or should not have an individual be Hitler, a slave owner or a terrorist for the same reason and it may cause others to criticize that youngster. Films, stories, debates, trials, readings, first-hand accounts, discussions, etc., are much better and have a deeper, longer and lasting impact on the students. Teachers should consider their goal of the activity and what type of student learning they anticipate. For example, why reproduce the hate and discomfort when it would be so much better to explore the choices people made and why, and what the impact of those choices was. The bottom line is no matter how prepared the simulation it can never truly replicate the horror. We recommend simulation not be utilized, but the more in-depth approach that the students may learn and fully understand be utilized.

Fictional Material –
The use of fictional material sounds like a good approach to reach students rather than through non-fiction documentaries, first-hand accounts, but it will work only if the fiction is first presented in a historical or factual context. The students may then utilize skills such as critical thinking, comparing, analysis, etc., when reading or viewing the fictional accounts. To just read the fictional account will not give the students a solid foundation of study as suggested in an excerpt from Lindquist, D. (1998). Developing Holocaust curricula: The content decision-making process. The Clearing House, 82(1), 27-33.

The matter of historical accuracy is especially critical when using literature to teach the Holocaust. Teachers must draw a careful distinction between historical truth and literary truth. Historical truth—the acknowledged factual record regarding a given situation—must coexist with literary truth—the establishment of the essence of a particular event—while allowing for literary license to be used as a means of advancing both the story line and the reader's understanding of the situation. The historical record thus establishes what happened, whereas literary truth, if properly and carefully applied, addresses the tone of what happened. Several problems arise as Holocaust educators attempt to establish an appropriate balance between the imperative of historical accuracy and the ability of literature to enhance student learning through its power to express truths about the human experience.

When using literature to teach history, it is necessary to suspend belief at some level if the literature is to be allowed to develop fully. It is vital, however, that literature used to teach the Holocaust fulfills “the promise of truthfulness” (Wyschogrod 1998, 10), so that historical accuracy is maintained.
New Jersey is one of the most diverse states in the nation. Our state is home to people from many racial and ethnic backgrounds, varied religious affiliations and we speak over 120 different languages. We in New Jersey should be proud of this diversity, for learning about others is a very important way to reduce bias, bigotry and intolerance. However, New Jersey ranks number two (2) in the country in the number of hate crimes reported by its citizens against people or their property.

One of the factors preventing students from greater understanding and appreciation of one another is that only four other states have more segregated school systems than New Jersey. Former Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, when speaking about a state Supreme Court ruling, cited a “constitutional imperative to prevent segregation in our public schools”; “as a state, we are losing ground,” Poritz wrote. “We have paid lip service to the idea of diversity in our schools, but in the real world we have not succeeded. Students attending racially imbalanced schools are denied the benefits that come from learning and associating with students from different backgrounds, races and cultures, and as research has demonstrated this understanding reduces prejudice.”

In spite of the many efforts of citizens, educational institutions, the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government, and human services agencies and organizations, the housing patterns of New Jersey continue to keep many of our school districts segregated. Therefore, since changing the housing patterns in New Jersey will take many years, it is up the schools to work toward integration NOW, not just thinking that housing, busing, school redistricting or open enrollment will effect a cure for our segregated schools.

We would like to suggest some school exchange opportunities for suburban, rural and urban students that are easily available to support the goal of integration:

- Mix It Up At Lunch
- Special Programs and Assemblies
- Teacher In-Service Days
- Cultural Diversity Days
- Study Circles
- Trips
- Cultural Diversity Days
- School Exchange Days
- Informal Sports Program

It all begins with a phone call, e-mail, or text message to a fellow school educator in another district. There is no better way to reduce prejudice than by having OPEN AND HONEST DIALOGUE in order to have the educational community partnering to rid our schools and community of bias, bigotry and intolerance.

We look forward to establishing greater communications on this process in order to promote better understanding of the needs and expectations of the diverse population in New Jersey.
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

RECEIVE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

To receive updated information regarding the Commission via e-mail, please subscribe by logging onto the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education web site: http://www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust/ and entering your e-mail address under “Subscribe to our mailing list”.

Also all upcoming events/programs, etc. can be viewed on this site.
SUMMER SEMINAR FOR EDUCATORS TO THE INFAMOUS SITES OF THE HOLOCAUST

Summer of 2019

Trip led by Maud Dahme
Child Survivor of the Holocaust

Sign up on our listserv to be notified directly with updated information
http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/

As more information becomes available, it will also be posted on our web site:
http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/programs/trips/
SAMPLE ITINERARY

SUMMER SEMINAR FOR EDUCATORS
Trip led by Maud Dahme, Child Survivor of the Holocaust

BERLIN, GERMANY — Arrival in Berlin. Clear Customs and meet Tour Escort who will remain with the group until departure from Warsaw. Proceed on a guided panoramic tour of Berlin. Visit Potsdamer Square, Topography of Terror exhibit, Grunwald Train Station, Bayerschen Platz, Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Friedrichstrasse, Unter Den Linden, Oranlenburger Synagogue, monument to the Christian Wives of Jewish Men, the Humboldt University site of “Book Burning Memorial”.

BERLIN, PRAGUE — Travel to Wannsee Villa (Site of the "Final Solution" decision), then travel to Prague, the Capital of the Czech Republic.

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC — Tour of Prague with visits to the Royal Castle of Hradcany, St. Vitus Cathedral, across the striking Charles Bridge into the Old Quarter of Prague. Travel to Terezin, to experience the town and fortress of Terezin, which was founded in 1780 and during WWII became the Nazi concentration camp which they called Theresienstadt.

KRAKOW, POLAND — The tour will focus on the Jewish sights with visits to the Jewish Ghetto, the Jewish Museum, the Old-New Synagogue (Alt-neu), and the Old Jewish Cemetery and highlights of the city including the Wawel Castle and Cathedral, the Main Market Square and the Kazimierz district. Also visits to the Old Synagogue, the Jewish Museum, Remu Synagogue, the Popper Synagogue, and the Temple Synagogue.

KRAKOW, POLAND — Tour Auschwitz/Birkenau for an experience of the concentration camps. Visit the museum in Oswiecim and Wadowicse on the way back to Krakow.

KRAKOW/LUBLIN/WARSOW — Depart Krakow and travel via Lublin to Majdanek, the Nazi concentration camp and then continue to Warsaw.

WARSOW, POLAND — Visit the Royal Route, Chopin's Monument, Lazenski Park, and the old town. Then an extensive tour of the Treblinka concentration camp.

WARSOW/AMSTERDAM — Tour the Warsaw Ghetto, The Ghetto Uprising Memorial, Mila 18, Jewish Historical Institute and Museum, Gesia Cemetery, Nozyk Synagogue, the Jewish State Theater and Umschlag Platz then transfer to Warsaw airport for the departure flight to Amsterdam.

AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND — Tour Vugt, a Dutch concentration camp.

AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND — Begin day with an early morning walking tour with local guide before breakfast. Tour of Anne Frank's House and the Jewish Historical Museum, the Portuguese Synagogue and the former Jewish Quarter of Amsterdam.

AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND — Tour Vierhouten, a hidden village in the woods, and visit Oldebroek and Elburg (some of Maud's hidden sites).
Dear Educator:

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is committed to teaching ALL students the importance of the simple human dignity bestowed upon each of us and to practice respect for all people expressed through our thoughts, our words and our actions to build a more responsible, humane citizenry. To this end, the Commission collaborated with New Jersey educators and the Office of Special Education Programs in the Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services at the New Jersey Department of Education to create Teaching about the Holocaust/Genocide, Prejudice and Bullying Using UDL (Universal Design for Learning).

The lesson plans were developed by New Jersey educators utilizing the principles of UDL – Teaching the Diverse Classroom. The lessons deal with the subject of the Holocaust/genocide, prejudice, discrimination and bullying prevention, as well as, acceptance, perseverance, and making choices.

We believe that they will be a valuable resource for classroom instruction as teachers implement the required curriculum and to facilitate a positive school climate. The Commission values your input for future revisions and also requests other lessons to implement other curriculum developed by the Commission utilizing the UDL concept. The suggestions may be sent to (holocaust@doe.nj.gov) The lesson plans and other material about the Holocaust and genocide may be viewed on our website http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Glaser
Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

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