

Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education: Holocaust and other Genocides: *A Progress Update*



Assembly 231 Overview

AB 231 requires the State Board of Education to ***appoint a subcommittee to review and make recommendations on the manner in which to provide certain information to pupils concerning the Holocaust and other Genocides***, such as the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, Guatemalan and Rwandan Genocides. Additionally, ***review the manner in which certain standards support comprehensive education on the Holocaust*** for educators and students, including resources and professional learning.

What is Occurring in Nevada?

Developed Genocide Education Partnerships between NDE and:

- GenocideEducation.org
- The Genocide Education Project
- Israeli American Council
- Nevada State of Higher Education Institutions
- Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center
- Redbud Resource Group
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- The Anti-Defamation League
- University of Southern California Shoah Foundation
- Echoes & Reflections
- Holocaust Survivor's Group of Southern Nevada

What is Occurring in Nevada?

Developed & Facilitated Self-Paced Professional Learning Courses for Nevada Educators through Canvas:

- 22 Genocide Education courses spanning topics including the Holocaust, combating antisemitism & diversity awareness
- Six Genocide Education courses spanning topics including the genocides in Armenia, Rwanda, Cambodia, Darfur, Guatemala, and the Roma
- Ten Genocide Education learning modules for Nevada educators to use with students through Canvas

Data

- Enrollment of courses is over 2,600 Nevada educators
- Outcomes: Over 13,750 inputs of educator-generated discussion, discourse, & reflection on improving and implementing genocide education for students in Nevada

Driving Event Awareness

Increased Nevada's educator registration to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's annual educators conference from **32** educators to over **900**.

Surveying the Landscape

The purpose behind the survey was to understand the level of Holocaust and Genocide education throughout Nevada.

The sample size was 1,406, Nevadans from the voter file, with a margin of error of +/- 2.6%

Survey was commissioned by the Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust and sponsored by Jewish Nevada and the Nevada Center for Humanity.

Surveying the Landscape

Survey Summary:

- 1 in 10 Nevadans does not believe the Holocaust happened
- 1 in 3 Nevadans can accurately state how many Jews were killed in the Holocaust
- 1 in 7 Nevadans know someone who does not believe the Holocaust happened
- More Nevadans believe Holocaust distortion is increasing
 - 35% of parents with children under the age of 18 are seeing an increase in Holocaust distortion and denial
 - 25% increase for individuals who are 18-34 years old
 - 33% for individuals in rural Nevada
- 25% of Nevadans could not name a cause of the Holocaust
- 1 in 10 Nevadans did not know that the Jewish people were the target of the Holocaust
- Nearly half (47%) of all Nevadans could not name a single Nazi concentration or death camp
 - 59% in rural counties
 - 64% with a high school diploma
 - 56% with children under 18

Surveying the Landscape

Survey Summary:

- 10% of Nevadans have never heard of the word “genocide”
 - 14% of 18-34 and 35-44 year olds
 - 19% of people with a high school level education
 - 17% in rural counties
- When prompted with the definition, 72% of Nevadans could accurately define “genocide”
- 28% of Nevadans could not name a single genocide, including the Holocaust
 - 39% of 18-34 year olds
 - 30% with children under 18 years old
 - 46% in rural counties
 - 41% with a high school level education
- 86% of Nevadans had at least some knowledge of the Holocaust; 14% had little to no knowledge
- 22% of Nevadans had at least some knowledge of the Porajmos; 78% had little to no knowledge
- 31% of Nevadans had at least some knowledge of the Armenian Genocide; 69 knowledge

Teaching and Learning Recommendations

- Increase library of self-paced genocide education professional learning course offerings for Nevada educators
- Increase library of genocide education learning modules for student learning
- A streamlined system to bring Holocaust survivors, experts, & interactive activities into Nevada classrooms
- Development & driving awareness to Holocaust Educator Certification programs
- A streamlined system to connect educators to a wide array of virtual Genocide Education workshops year-round
- Companion Guides for using Genocide Education media in the classroom and to support Tier I instruction
- Creation of multilingual Genocide Education resources to support EL programs

Legislative Recommendations

- **Funding** for a permanent Holocaust and other Genocides professional position at the Department of Education
- **Funding** to facilitate micro grants to Local Education Agencies for educator and student learning

Questions?