

June 16, 2023

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Yael Ginsler
Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Achievement Division

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister
French Language Teaching, Learning and Achievement
Division

Subject: Revisions to the Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum –
Mandatory Holocaust learning

As announced on [November 9, 2022](#), the Ministry of Education is introducing mandatory Holocaust learning for the first time in elementary schools to help younger students gain a deeper understanding of its significance and combat rising cases of antisemitism in Ontario schools. In order to frame the Holocaust learning, students will learn about Jewish heritage, the experiences of Jewish individuals, families, and communities, including ways in which they have contributed to Canada, the ongoing impact of antisemitism, and responses to acts of hate and human rights violations after World War II.

The revised Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum, which is part of Ontario's [continued modernization of the curriculum](#), will be implemented in September 2023.

The new learning is available to all parents, teachers and students on the Curriculum and Resources website at [Ontario.ca/curriculum](#). It was developed with community organizations to ensure grade content is factually accurate, age appropriate, relevant and culturally responsive.

Implementation supports

The ministry is committed to supporting educators through training and resources, including webinars and classroom-ready resources. A key changes document and parent guide are available on the Curriculum and Resources website that outline new learning in Grade 6 Social Studies.

Educators will also have access to professional learning opportunities, including ministry hosted webinars for which registration information will be made available on the [Curriculum and Resources website](#). The ministry will be partnering with additional third-party education and community stakeholders and organizations who will be developing further resources to support the implementation of the revised Grade 6 curriculum.

This is in addition to investments in community partnerships the government has made to help students learn about historical and present-day discrimination and how to identify and address hate. These initiatives include:

- The launch of the [Antisemitism Classroom Toolkit](#), designed by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, to provide students in Grades 1 to 4 and educators content and learning strategies to combat antisemitism.
- Introduction of [Unlearn Antisemitism](#), developed by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), a resource hub for educators and parents to learn about, identify, and take action to address antisemitism.
- Promotion of [Antisemitism resources](#) and guides to support parents and students from the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation.
- Holocaust/antisemitism education resources for educators and supports for students developed by [Liberation75](#).
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Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership in ensuring Ontario's students learn about historical and present-day discrimination and how to identify and address hate at an earlier age.

Sincerely,

Yael Ginsler
Assistant Deputy Minister

Denys Giguère
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGÉFO)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
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