

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to **urge the Vermont Agency of Education to explicitly include ethnic groups “that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide” and to specify that the curriculum address “antisemitism” in its new State Education Quality Standards.** This new Curriculum **must include the Jewish experience** in the United States and around the world.

In light of current events, being silent about antisemitism and the Jewish experience in the United States is akin to promoting prejudice.

Antisemitism is a rising problem in the US and is statistically the basis of the majority of religion-based hate crimes. **Vermont children not learning about who Jewish Americans are and our history here only feeds into antisemitism, racism, and hate. Students need to learn about this history to understand America and its relationship to ethnic minorities.** Antisemitism is an issue in Vermont just as much as it is around the country. Swastikas were found painted on the side of buildings in my community, Norwich, VT. Synagogues in VT have had to construct crash barriers, hire armed guards, and install bullet-proof glass in their buildings in response to concerns.

The White House has issued the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. Pillar 1 of that strategy reads, "Increase awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including its threat to America, and broaden appreciation of Jewish American heritage." Why would Vermont choose to deliberately remove Jews from this curriculum?

Vermont is known for being a loving, tolerant and liberal state. Please ensure that the new curriculum addresses antisemitism so that it stays that way.

Sincerely,

Joslyn E. Meier, MPH, MIA
Norwich, Vermont