

Advocacy

Maryland Jewish

DAY RECEPTION 2025



Combatting Hate in Our Public Schools

SB293/HB324: County Boards of Education – Antibias Training for Members – Requirement *County Board Member Antibias Training Act* (Sen. Brian Feldman/Del. Marc Korman)

In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation that would require all public school employees to undergo biennial antibias training. The goal of this training is to incorporate cultural awareness reduce implicit bias using evidence-based guidelines.

Piggybacking on last year’s legislation, this bill would require the same antibias training that is crafted for school employees to be carried out for school board members once during each term served on the County School Board. This training would be performed separately from that which education staff receive.

Why is this bill important to the Jewish Community?

Ensuring that those adults who are tasked with working closely with our students in Maryland are properly equipped with the knowledge of biases and how to address classroom issues is essential in the fight to combat antisemitism and hate in our State.

HB71: Education – Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program – Established (Del. Mark Edelson)

The Maryland State Department of Education’s Standards and Framework for Middle School Social Studies curricula have recently been updated for Holocaust education and antisemitism. We recognize that it is important to give our teachers the tools they need to both understand and properly teach this difficult material to their students. Without funding for professional development and materials, this can be hard to achieve.

This bill would establish the \$500,000 Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program as an annual appropriation in the budget under the Maryland State Department of Education. These grants would be available to all 24 jurisdictions to assist with Holocaust education in public schools. It authorizes a local school system to apply to the Department for a grant of no more than \$50,000 to be used only for certain Holocaust-related training, materials, and activities.

Why is this bill important to the Jewish Community?

One of the best ways to prevent history from repeating itself is through education. By allowing easier access for our teachers to receive professional development on the Holocaust, we are allowing them to be better equipped for classroom conversations around this important topic.