



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **Resolution on Increased Teaching and Training about Antisemitism**

**WHEREAS**, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biden-Harris Administration's U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism embraces Executive Order 13899, Combating Antisemitism (2019), and specifies that "national origin" within Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 includes groups with "shared ancestry," specifically "Jewish ancestry"; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. State Department is among more than three-dozen countries and international organizations that have adopted the Working Definition promoted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has reported a 360 percent increase in antisemitic incidents since October 7th, 2023, compared to the prior year, with antisemitic attacks and harassment across the United States skyrocketing; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the ADL, antisemitism sometimes targets Jews not as individuals but as a collective – whether that's Jewish organizations, movements like Zionism or the Jewish State of Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, Jews make up only 2.4 percent of the U.S. population but are the targets of 54.9 percent of all religion-based hate crimes in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, shifting attitudes among young people raise serious concerns that America may grow less welcoming to Jews in the future, an alarming trend documented by an Economist/YouGov survey finding that 20 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds believe the Holocaust is a myth, while 0 percent of respondents above the age of 65 deny the Holocaust; and

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**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the State Board of Education:

- i. Condemns antisemitic incidents which have occurred in Michigan's schools and commits to the safety and well-being of all students and teachers; and
- ii. Encourages the education of all students and teachers on the historical background and dangers of antisemitism as part of Holocaust history; and
- iii. Encourages local school districts to create open channels for reporting antisemitic incidents with transparent follow-up, and bolster school security to protect all students, and ensure a safe and inclusive environment in every school; and
- iv. Supports training sessions for teachers to learn more about antisemitism, including its historical origins, manifestations and impact, and to deepen understanding between antisemitism and anti-Zionism; and
- v. Encourages local school districts to reassess curricula to ensure that accurate and pedagogically sound content about antisemitism, Jewish identity and community, and religious diversity can be integrated where applicable; and
- vi. Supports classrooms that offer students a space where civil discourse, including about the Israel-Hamas war and about modern manifestations of antisemitism can thrive in an educational and constructive manner; and
- vii. Re-affirms that bias, discrimination and microaggressions that make students feel unsafe at school will not be tolerated in the school community.

Resolution passed on December 10, 2024, by a vote of 7 – 1.