

Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education

Michael Igel, Chair of the Commissioner of Education's
Task Force on Holocaust Education
PJ Duncan, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Standards
and Instructional Support

Session Goal:

- Provide district and school leaders with information regarding the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education (HETF) and implementation of Holocaust Education.

Session Topics:

- Task Force Mission, Purpose and Duties
- Holocaust Education in Florida
- Legislative Updates
- Holocaust Education Organizations



Mission of the Holocaust Education Task Force (HETF)

The core mission of the Commissioner's Task Force on Holocaust Education is to promote Holocaust education in the State of Florida. On a continual basis, the Task Force shall survey the status of Holocaust Education; design, encourage and promote the implementation of Holocaust education and awareness; provide programs in all Florida school districts; and coordinate designated events that will provide appropriate memorialization of the Holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state.



Purpose

- Advising the Commissioner of Education and school districts in the preparation of teaching the history of the Holocaust.
- Supporting the designated task force sites (Museums, university centers, etc.).
- Convening task force meetings that bring together representatives from the State of Florida.
- Providing education resources, professional learning and support for educators in the State of Florida.



Duties

- Developing training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the state's Holocaust and anti-Semitism standards.
- Providing anti-Semitism and Holocaust education resources, professional learning and support for public primary, secondary and postsecondary students, educators and administrators.
- Reviewing public school compliance with required Holocaust and anti-Semitism required instruction statutes and regulations.



Duties, continued

- Preparing an annual recurring Task Force budget request to be included in the State Board of Education's Legislative Budget Request (LBR).
- Adopting an annual budget to implement Task Force objectives.
- Promoting awareness among students, teachers, educational administrators and the public.



Membership

- 11 voting members who are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Commissioner.
 - Representatives from a Florida Holocaust Education Center, Memorial or Museum.
 - Representatives from the State University System, Florida College System, or a Florida private college/university.
 - Representatives from the state public school system, including one member from a public charter school.
 - Members-at-large who have demonstrated commitment to the teaching or preservation of the history of the Holocaust.



Subgrants

- The HETF is responsible for the funding of project applications.
- Funds are available for educators, students, educational organizations, universities and more.
- Projects must align to both state academic standards and the mission of the Task Force
- Previously funded projects include:
 - Movie Premieres
 - Poster Exhibits
 - Community Events
 - Teacher Training



Moving Forward

- Support implementation of Holocaust Education throughout the State of Florida.
- Collaborate with other strategic partners to support the work of the HETF.
- Support continued growth of student learning and achievement.
- Provide opportunities for increased student engagement.
- Continue partnership with The Florida Department of Education and the HETF.
- Identify additional community partners and stakeholders.
- Establish partnerships with Florida educator organizations.
- Establish partnerships with state colleges, community colleges, universities, charter schools, and auxiliary educational programs.



Holocaust Education in Florida

Holocaust Education in Florida

- In 1994, the Florida Legislature passed the Holocaust Education Bill (Senate Bill 660).
- This bill added the history of the Holocaust to required instruction.
- This was before state academic standards existed.



Section 1003.42(2)(g), Florida Statutes, requires:

“The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.”



Mandate for Holocaust Education

- Following the passing of Senate Bill 660 and the establishment of the HETF, the Task Force created a mandate for Holocaust Education in Florida.
- The mandate identifies both rationales and strategies for achieving Holocaust Literacy.
- By focusing on key elements, the Task Force created specific recommendations for the scope, content, and outcomes for Holocaust education in Florida schools.



Scope

Instruction on the Holocaust is to be included throughout the public school system from preparatory lessons in the primary and intermediate grades, through exploratory studies in the intermediate and middle school grades, and synthesizing projects by the conclusion of the senior high school experience. Holocaust content is to be incorporated in ways that are age-appropriate, interdisciplinary, and consistent with other required instruction.



Content

The Holocaust is to be taught as a uniquely important event in modern history, emphasizing the systemic and state-sponsored violence, which distinguish it from other genocides. Florida teachers are enjoined to teach about the gradual unfolding and escalation of the Holocaust (“the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping”), with special attention paid to both the apathy and the altruism of the world community (“what it means to be a responsible and respectful person”). Finally, the Holocaust is to be taught in ways that encourage a pluralistic perspective and democratic practices.



Outcomes

Ultimately, the establishment of Holocaust studies in Florida schools is expected to play a significant role in the development of tolerant attitudes, cooperative and collaborative behaviors, informed, involved and compassionate citizens, and other skills encouraging civility.



House Bill (HB) 1213 (2020)

- HB 1213 (2020) amended s. 1003.42(2)(g), F.S.
 - Requires each school district to annually certify and provide evidence, to the Department, that the requirements for Holocaust Education are being met.
 - Required the Department create Holocaust Education standards.
- Established the second week in November as “Holocaust Education Week.”



Holocaust Education Standards

Social Studies Standards Coding

SS.	5.	HE.	1.	1
Subject	Grade Level	Strand	Standard	Benchmark

The standards are associated by Strands. The coding provided below directs the user to which strand each standard is associated.

Strands

HE = Holocaust Education

AA = African American History

CG = Civics and Government

FL = Financial Literacy

A = American History

W = World History

H = Humanities

P = Psychology

G = Geography

E = Economics

S = Sociology



Holocaust Education Standards

- A new strand of content standards was added to social studies specific for Holocaust Education.
 - First standalone standards for Holocaust Education in the nation.
 - New standards were designed to be content-rich and developmentally appropriate.
 - Grade 5 was determined to be the most appropriate place to begin to introduce the horrors of the Holocaust.
- The Department worked closely with the HETF and Florida teachers to develop the standards.



Holocaust Education Standards

Grade 5



Holocaust Education Week

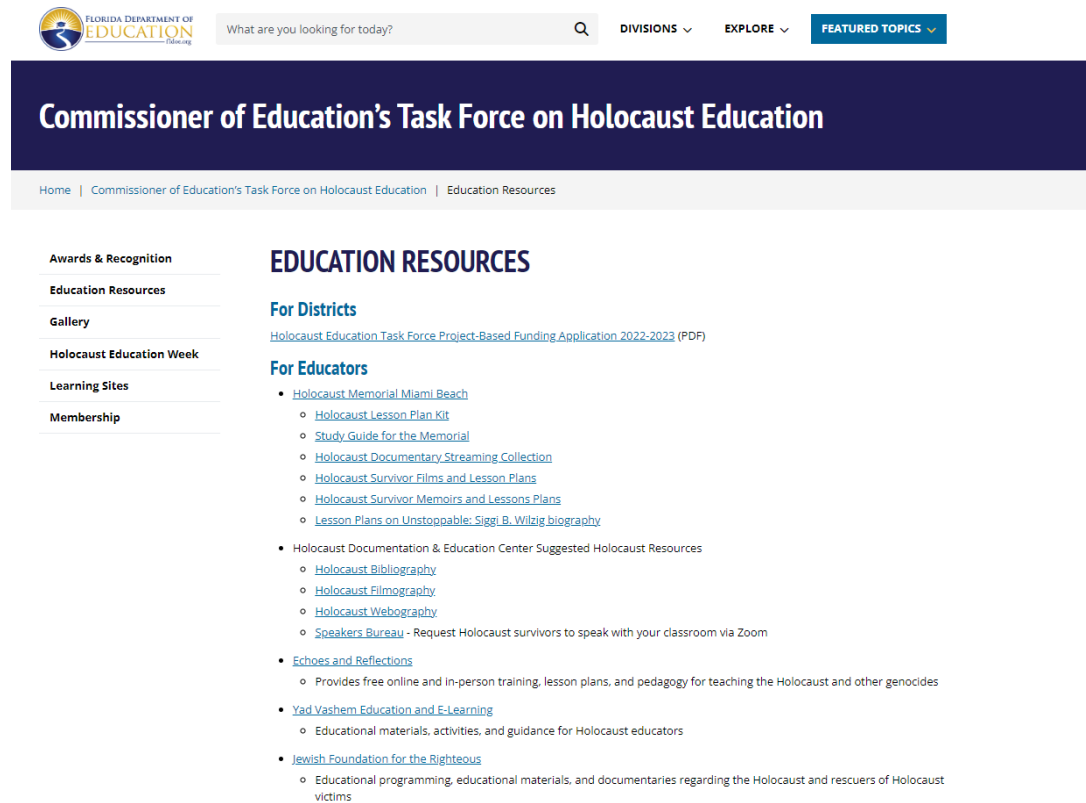
Holocaust Education Week

- First established by HB 1213 (2020).
- Occurs during the second week of November.
 - Anniversary of Kristallnacht
- Serves as a dedicated opportunity for students to learn the history of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.



Holocaust Educational Resources

Holocaust Education Resource Page



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

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EDUCATION RESOURCES

For Districts

[Holocaust Education Task Force Project-Based Funding Application 2022-2023 \(PDF\)](#)

For Educators

- [Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach](#)
 - [Holocaust Lesson Plan Kit](#)
 - [Study Guide for the Memorial](#)
 - [Holocaust Documentary Streaming Collection](#)
 - [Holocaust Survivor Films and Lesson Plans](#)
 - [Holocaust Survivor Memoirs and Lesson Plans](#)
 - [Lesson Plans on Unstoppable: Siggi B. Wilzig biography](#)
- Holocaust Documentation & Education Center Suggested Holocaust Resources
 - [Holocaust Bibliography](#)
 - [Holocaust Filmography](#)
 - [Holocaust Webography](#)
 - [Speakers Bureau](#) - Request Holocaust survivors to speak with your classroom via Zoom
- [Echoes and Reflections](#)
 - Provides free online and in-person training, lesson plans, and pedagogy for teaching the Holocaust and other genocides
- [Yad Vashem Education and E-Learning](#)
 - Educational materials, activities, and guidance for Holocaust educators
- [Jewish Foundation for the Righteous](#)
 - Educational programming, educational materials, and documentaries regarding the Holocaust and rescuers of Holocaust victims

- Resources for teaching Holocaust Education can be found at

www.FLDoe.org/holocausteducation/resources.

- Includes:
 - Lesson Plans
 - Films
 - Primary Sources
 - Supplemental Resources



Holocaust Education Resources

Teaching Trunks

- Offered free of charge by The Florida Holocaust Museum.
- Include age-appropriate resources for K-12.
- Contains
 - Videos
 - Photos
 - Reading Material
 - More

Echoes and Reflections

- Free in-person and virtual professional learning centered on Holocaust Education.
- Free fully developed lesson plans ready to be used in classrooms.
- Answers to some tough questions students may ask.



Holocaust Learning Sites

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LEARNING SITES

- [Arthur and Emalie Gutterman Family Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters at Florida Atlantic University](#)
 - Contact: Linda Medvin, lmedvin@fau.edu, 561-297-2929
 - Location: Boca Raton, FL
- [Holocaust Documentation & Education Center](#)
 - Contact: Rositta E. Kenigsberg, rositta@hdec.org, 954-929-5690
 - Location: Dania Beach, FL
- [Holocaust Education Resource Council](#)
 - Contact: Barbara Goldstein, barabara@holocaustresources.org, 850-443-9649
 - Location: Tallahassee, FL
- [Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida](#)
 - Contact: Talli Dippold, tdippold@holocaustedu.org, 407-628-0555
 - Location: Maitland, FL
- [Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center](#)
 - Contact: Susan Suarez, susan@hmcec.org, 239-263-9200
 - Location: Naples, FL
- [The Florida Holocaust Museum](#)
 - Contact: Erin Blankenship, eblankenship@thefhm.org, 727-820-0100
 - Location: St. Petersburg, FL
- [University of Florida Holocaust Studies](#)
 - Contact: Norman JW Goda, goda@ufl.edu
 - Location: Gainesville, FL



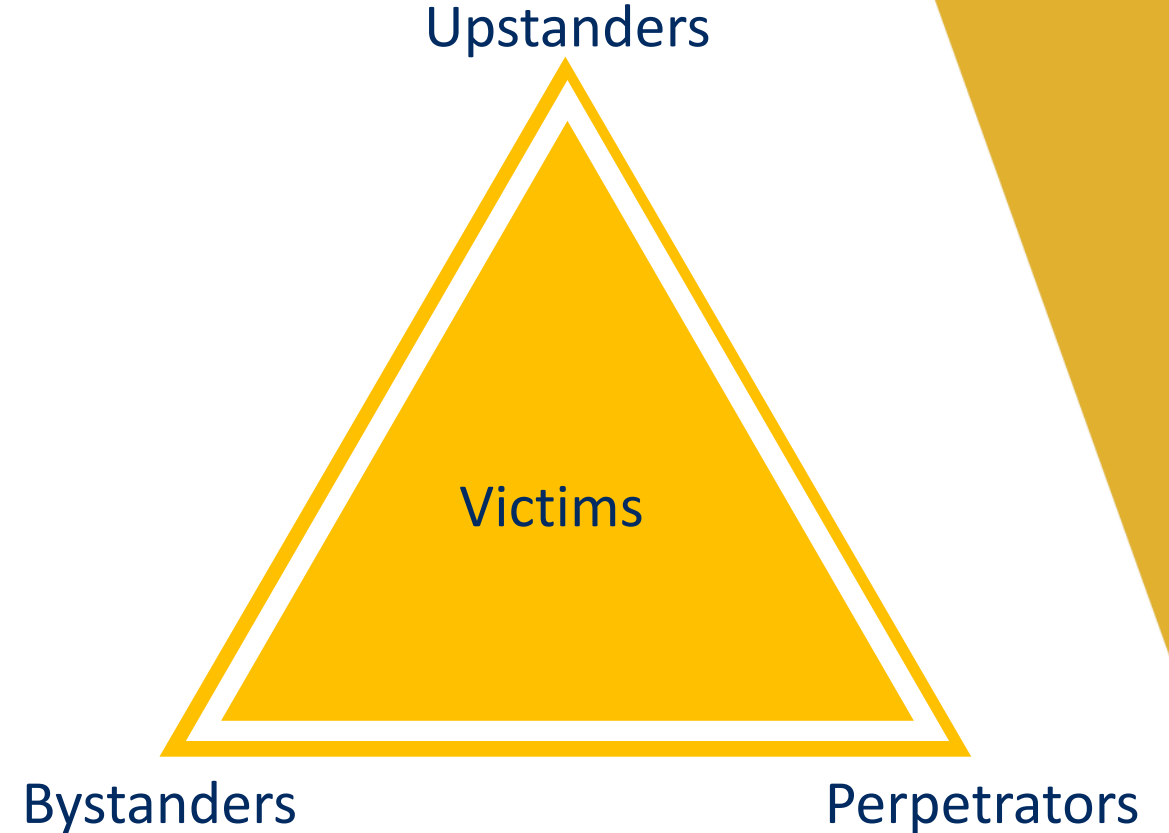
What Else?

- What other resources are available for teachers?
- Using your devices, find a resource that teachers could use when planning for or providing instruction.
- Discuss with your table, what resource you found and a way it could be used in a classroom.



THE TRIANGLE

- How do bystanders, or witnesses, contribute to the possibility of mass atrocity?
- How can indifference to, insensitivity to, or tolerance of hurtful acts be combated?



**Very soon, Holocaust survivors will no longer be with
us**

**This is the last chance to meet
a living Holocaust survivor**

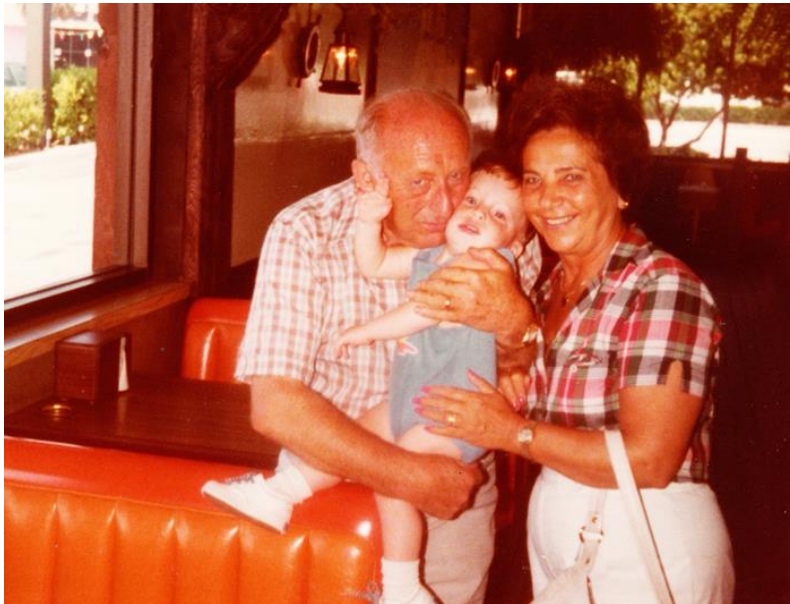
**How will we teach these important lessons when
survivors are no longer here?**





WHY SHOULD EVERY SCHOOL INCORPORATE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION?





**TO EDUCATE AND
EMPOWER A NEW
GENERATION OF
UPSTANDERS!**



Thank You

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Please complete the following survey to help us better understand how we can support you and your teachers!