

**RECOMMENDATIONS ON CREATING A
COMPREHENSIVE, STATEWIDE
REPORTING AND TRACKING
MECHANISM FOR ALLEGED
INSTANCES OF ANTISEMITISM AND
ANTI-RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY**



**Executive Order 48: Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry in
Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education (2025)**

September 3, 2025

Recommendations on Creating a Comprehensive, Statewide Reporting and Tracking Mechanism for Alleged Instances of Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry

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Introduction

Across the United States, and within Virginia, Jewish students and faculty are facing increasing incidents of antisemitism within educational settings. These incidents are not abstract, but rather real and continuous. Governor Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 48: “Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education” on May 19, 2025, to address the need for increased vigilance, transparency, and responsiveness when combating discrimination.¹

Executive Order 48 directs the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Security, the Virginia Department of Education, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to develop resources that will help local school divisions, as well as colleges and universities, prevent, track, report, and follow up on incidents of antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry.

For the purposes of this report and to fulfill directive three of Executive Order 48, the Secretaries of Education and Public Safety & Homeland Security, along with the Department of Education, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and Department of Criminal Justice Services, convened a working group to develop recommendations to establish a statewide reporting and tracking mechanism for instances of antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry. After thorough research into existing practices and input from stakeholders from the Jewish and faith communities, the Administration’s working group provides this set of recommendations for consideration by the Governor and leadership of the General Assembly.

¹ Governor Glenn Youngkin, Executive Order No. 48: *Combating Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education* (May 18, 2025).

The Governor's Actions to Combat Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry

Since Day One, the Youngkin administration has made it clear that all Virginians should be free to live, work, learn, and raise their families without fear of discrimination. One of the Governor's campaign promises and initial actions upon taking office, Executive Order Eight, created the Commission to Combat Antisemitism to analyze antisemitism in Virginia and develop recommendations that would reduce anti-religious bigotry, especially in Virginia schools.² Recommendations from the Commission included the following:

- Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism;
- Strengthen Virginia's hate crime statute to better reflect religious identities;
- Increase education and strengthen standards of learning;
- Increase law enforcement training, and;
- Create a reporting mechanism for antisemitic incidents.³

In 2023, Governor Youngkin signed House Bill 1606 (2023) to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism (IHRA). The definition provided a framework for addressing antisemitism across the state, and facilitated the integration of antisemitism awareness, Holocaust awareness, and Jewish history into Virginia's K-12 History and Social Science Standards of Learning.

The Virginia Department of Education has since developed and disseminated high-quality instructional guides aligned with the new 2023 Standards of Learning for History and Social Science.⁴ These guides incorporate more examples of Jewish experiences throughout United States history, including pre- and post-American Revolution, pre- and post-World War II, the Holocaust, and contemporary times. In the coming years, the Department, in collaboration with the State Board of Education, will continue to publish high-quality instructional materials and adopt textbooks aligned with the 2023 Standards of Learning. Each resource will be rigorously reviewed before being placed on the Department's GoOpenVA Hub to ensure an accurate and comprehensive telling of Judaism and Jewish heritage and history.⁵

After the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Directive Six, which enhanced coordination of security efforts for houses of worship and educational institutions, expedited the distribution of \$2.7 million in protective grants, and required the development of

² Governor Glenn Youngkin, Executive Order No. 8: *Establishing the Commission to Combat Antisemitism*, "Office of the Governor of Virginia," Jan. 15, 2022.

³ Virginia Commission to Combat Antisemitism, *Final Report of the Virginia Commission to Combat Antisemitism*, [https://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/secretary-of-the-commonwealth/pdf/Antisemitism-Commission-Report_final-\(1\).pdf](https://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/secretary-of-the-commonwealth/pdf/Antisemitism-Commission-Report_final-(1).pdf).

⁴ Virginia Department of Education, History and Social Science Standards of Learning, <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/history-and-social-science/standards-of-learning>.

⁵ Virginia Department of Education, #GoOpenVA, <https://goopenva.org/>.

targeted campus safety plans and public awareness initiatives to protect Jewish, Muslim, and other religious/ethnic communities throughout Virginia.⁶ In 2024, Governor Youngkin proceeded with sweeping efforts to combat anti-religious bigotry by signing bipartisan legislation—House Bill 18 (2024) and Senate Bill 7 (2024)—that strengthened legal protections against discrimination and crimes based on ethnic origin.

The administration’s commitment to campus security has included specialized training for law enforcement and security personnel and the revision of institutional policies. Between October and December 2024, more than 200 law enforcement officers from across Virginia participated in training sessions focused on the threat posed by religious extremism, particularly by the designated foreign terrorist organization group Hamas, on college campuses and across the nation.⁷

Concurrently, the Secretary of Education’s office worked closely with Boards of Visitors at Virginia’s public universities to update student codes of conduct at each higher education institution. These revisions ensure the protection of free speech while also clarifying campus time, place, and manner rules and the consequences for violations. Additionally, the Secretary of Education’s office, in partnership with the Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Security, held bimonthly calls with campus police chiefs from our public and private Virginia colleges to provide updates, build open channels of communication, facilitate cross-campus sharing of information and emerging best practices, and offer statewide support. To further institutionalize safety practices, in 2024, the Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Security developed campus safety and emergency preparedness training guidelines, which are now available to all public and private institutions as required by House Bill 713 (2024).

In compliance with Executive Order 48, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia adopted a model resolution that the Boards of Visitors of our institutions of higher education are encouraged to adopt by December 31, 2025, to enhance their efforts to combat antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry on their campuses. Additionally, the Virginia Department of Education provided every public school superintendent in Virginia with a set of recommended actions and corresponding resources. These include incorporating the IHRA definition of antisemitism and antidiscrimination statutes into local divisions’ Student Codes of Conduct; the review of policies and procedures to ensure that acts of antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry are assessed in the same manner as any other form of discrimination prohibited by state or federal law; ensuring high quality and accurate instructional materials to teach about Judaism, Jewish history, and the Holocaust, and Israel; and making these materials and instructional guides available to every teacher in the Commonwealth.

Beyond legislative and administrative measures, Governor Youngkin has used executive authority to express solidarity with faith communities and raise awareness about the fundamental right of

⁶ Governor Glenn Youngkin, Executive Directive No. 6: *Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry and Protecting the Freedom to Worship in the Commonwealth of Virginia*, Oct. 31, 2023.

⁷ U.S. Department of State, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations>.

religious freedom. The administration has actively engaged with Jewish and faith communities by participating in events organized by key stakeholders, as well as through listening sessions with Muslim students and community leaders.

Governor Youngkin has also issued a series of public proclamations, including the designation of January 16 as Religious Freedom Day, the proclamation naming May as Jewish American Heritage Month, and the designation of October 7, 2024, as a Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the October 7th Hamas Attacks on Israel.⁸ In September 2024, flags across the Commonwealth were ordered to fly half-staff in remembrance of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a victim of the October 7th attack.⁹

These actions and more have led to Virginia ranking among the top three performing states in the Anti-Defamation League's Jewish Policy Index, which comprehensively evaluates all 50 states across 22 criteria in three critical categories: Prioritize Fighting Antisemitism, Educate About the Jewish Experience, and Protect Jewish Communities.¹⁰ Still, despite the significant progress during the Governor's term, it is important to remain vigilant and maintain active efforts to combat antisemitism and all forms of religious bigotry.

Why Virginia Needs a Comprehensive Reporting Mechanism

In Virginia, a hate crime is defined as a criminal act committed against a person or their property with the specific intent to intimidate based on characteristics like race, religion, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin.¹¹ Crimes against persons, for instance, include assault, battery, and threats of violence or harm, while crimes against property involve actions such as vandalism and arson.

In recent years, antisemitic incidents have increased globally and within the Commonwealth of Virginia, accentuating the need for a comprehensive reporting and tracking mechanism for incidents of antisemitic and other anti-religious bigotry. Following the October 7 attacks, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a threefold increase in antisemitic hate crime investigations from October 7, 2023, to January 30, 2024.¹² The Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) recorded 6,326 antisemitic incidents worldwide in 2024, with 742 incidents occurring on college and high school campuses in the United States, representing a 200 percent increase compared to 2022.¹³

⁸ Proclamations, Office of the Governor of Virginia, <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/proclamations/>.

⁹ Governor Glenn Youngkin, *Statement on the Murder of Hersh Goldberg-Polin*, Sept. 1, 2024.

¹⁰ Anti-Defamation League, *Jewish Policy Index (JPI)*, <https://www.adl.org/jpi>.

¹¹ *Code of Virginia* § 52-8.5.

¹² Ron Kampeas, "FBI Investigations of Anti-Jewish Hate Crimes Tripled After Oct. 7, Director Says," *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, Apr. 17, 2024, <https://www.jfed.net/antisemitismtoolsandresources/fbi-investigations-of-anti-jewish-hate-crimes-tripled-after-oct-7>.

¹³ Combat Antisemitism Movement, *Global Antisemitism Incidents Rise 107.7 % in 2024, Fueled by Far-Left Surge, CAM Annual Data Study Reveals*, Apr. 29, 2025, <https://www.combatantisemitism.org/studies-reports/global-antisemitism-incidents-rise-107-7-in-2024-fueled-by-far-left-surge-cam-annual-data-study-reveals/>.

In 2024, Virginia ranked 10th for the most antisemitic incidents according to the Anti-Defamation League.¹⁴ As of April this year, CAM reported 554 incidents worldwide, with a 216% increase in harassment incidents and a 226% increase in vandalism incidents between April 2024 and April 2025.¹⁵ Many of these incidents took place on campuses and in our schools. Moreover, these reported incidents likely represent only a fraction of actual occurrences. Numerous antisemitic acts remain unreported due to various factors, including fear of repercussions, lack of awareness of reporting channels, and a perception that reporting will not yield substantive action.

Overview of Current Reporting Mechanisms in Virginia

Virginia lacks a centralized reporting portal for incidents of antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry, and there are no existing reporting structures dedicated to antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry. Indeed, the current state of reporting and tracking mechanisms highlights why the Administration Work Group was directed in Executive Order 48 to design a comprehensive reporting and tracking mechanism. Existing mechanisms, while helpful, do not include a comprehensive tracking mechanism and data collection locale. Currently, there are three separate offices in the Commonwealth that receive complaints, each with differing scopes of jurisdiction and powers. They include:

Office of the Attorney General

In June 2023, the Office of the Attorney General announced the formation of an Antisemitism Task Force whose mission centers around four objectives to combat Antisemitism in the Commonwealth: educating, monitoring, information-gathering, and coordination with law enforcement.¹⁶

Separately, Virginians may submit complaints of antisemitic discrimination to Attorney General Miyares' Office of Civil Rights. The Office of Civil Rights regularly investigates discrimination on the basis of religion and ethnic or national origin in places of public accommodation, which include public and private K-12 schools. The Attorney General's website offers an online complaint form that can be completed so that the Attorney General's office can determine whether the complaint should be investigated further.¹⁷ All discrimination complaints must be filed with

¹⁴ Anti-Defamation League, *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024*, Apr. 22, 2025, <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2024>.

¹⁵ Combat Antisemitism Movement, *Antisemitic Incidents Remain Elevated Globally in April Amid Renewed Gaza Fighting*, May 9, 2025, <https://www.combatantisemitism.org/studies-reports/antisemitic-incidents-remain-elevated-globally-in-april-amid-renewed-gaza-fighting/>.

¹⁶ Virginia Office of the Attorney General, *Attorney General Miyares Creates Antisemitism Task Force*, Feb. 8, 2023, <https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2538-february-8th-2023-attorney-general-miyares-creates-antisemitism-task-force>.

¹⁷ Virginia Office of the Attorney General, Office of Civil Rights, <https://www.oag.state.va.us/citizen-resources/civil-rights>.

the Office no later than 300 days from the day upon which the alleged discriminatory practice occurred.¹⁸

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) offers students the opportunity to submit an electronic “Student Complaint Form.”¹⁹ Before submitting a form, students must first verify that they have exhausted all available grievance procedures established by the institution, remain dissatisfied with the resolution, and have contacted SCHEV as the last option in the grievance process. Following the student verification, SCHEV opens an investigation into the disputed matter if it falls within its authority. If preliminary findings indicate that the institution violated regulations, SCHEV will attempt to resolve the complaint through mediation. At the conclusion of the investigation, all parties will be notified in writing of the investigation’s outcome. Importantly, SCHEV provides a reporting mechanism—it does not have authority to investigate or resolve discrimination complaints. If SCHEV receives a discrimination complaint, it will be referred to the Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights or another federal agency. For SCHEV’s reporting mechanism, complaints should first be submitted to the Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights to avoid missing the 300-day reporting timeline.

The Virginia Department of Education

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) maintains an online complaint submission form through the Office of Parental Engagement (OPE).²⁰ The form redirects users to a pre-populated email to the OPE. Once submitted, staff at the OPE determine the nature of the report and whether it warrants follow-up or referral. Depending on the severity, complaints are referred to the Office of the Attorney General, local school divisions, or local law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the OPE, like the SCHEV Student Complaint Form, provides a reporting mechanism and lacks the authority to investigate or resolve discrimination complaints. For VDOE’s reporting mechanisms, complaints should first be submitted to the Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights to avoid missing the 300-day reporting timeline.

Examples of Other States’ Methods for Tracking and Reporting Antisemitic Incidents and Other Anti-Religious Bigotry

The Work Group surveyed actions from other states across the nation to guide the development of best-in-class recommendations for Virginia. The following are four state examples with tracking or reporting functions that informed our recommendations.

¹⁸ *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-3907.

¹⁹ State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), *Student Complaint Form*, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StudentComplaintForm>.

²⁰ Virginia Department of Education, *Parent Resources*, <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/parents-students/parent-resources>.

Connecticut

Connecticut, state law established the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council.²¹ The council is responsible for increasing awareness and reporting of hate crimes and may make recommendations for legislation. On the Advisory Council's website, there is a "Get Help Now" section to contact the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit of the Connecticut State Police or to report a hate crime to the Hate Crimes Advisory Council. Information provided is collected and analyzed by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at the University of Connecticut. There is also information on how to call or submit a tip to the local police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.²²

Texas

In Texas, the Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission created *Confronting Antisemitism in Texas: How to Respond*, a resource for Texans confronting episodes of hate.²³ The document discusses how to identify antisemitism, details the available network of educators, security professionals, and other trusted advocates, and directs Texans to report antisemitism on school campuses and in communities throughout the state.

"How to Respond" provides Texans with contact information for local police departments and community networks in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, as well as state and national organizations. The document includes additional resources and materials from Hillel International, the Academic Engagement Network, and relevant institutions of higher education.

Maryland

Maryland's Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has established a *Hate Crimes Response and Prevention* portal.²⁴ The portal devotes one page to show the Maryland OAG's commitment to addressing instances of discriminatory hate and bias, mission statement, and efforts to prevent such incidents. Individuals interacting with the portal will find an easy-to-use incident report platform.

The Maryland Commission on Hate Crime Response and Prevention utilizes the information captured through the portal to inform recommendations for services and policies that benefit targeted groups. Upcoming commission meeting information, recordings, agendas, and minutes pertaining to past meetings are available through the portal as well.

New York

²¹ Conn. Gen. Stat. § 51-279f.

²² State of Connecticut, *Hate Crimes*, https://portal.ct.gov/hatecrimes?language=en_US.

²³ Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission, *Confronting Antisemitism in Texas: How To Respond*, <https://thgaac.texas.gov/assets/uploads/docs/THGAAC.ConfrontingAntisemitism.v3-1.pdf>.

²⁴ Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, *Resources*, <https://nohomeforhate.md.gov/pages/resources>.

New York State’s Division of Human Rights (DHR) launched the Hate and Bias Prevention Unit (HBPU) to support communities impacted by discrimination.²⁵ The HBPU works through a statewide network of regional councils, youth initiatives, and a response team.

The regional councils represent each of the ten NY regions, comprised of public and private stakeholders, including community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, government agencies, and other advocacy groups. The Councils serve as platforms for community members to share insights on regional trends, formulate innovative policy solutions, organize educational initiatives, organize community events, facilitate dialogues, and partner with schools to resolve intergroup conflict.

Recommendations to Establish a Comprehensive Reporting and Tracking Mechanism

The Work Group, with feedback from faith and ethnic communities, proposes utilizing the Virginia Fusion Center as the single, centralized reporting and tracking mechanism for allegations of antisemitic and other anti-religious acts. The Virginia Fusion Center (discussed in more detail below) regularly conducts outreach with faith communities through the Virginia Fusion Center Shield Program and already has robust threat information sharing relationships with several faith-based organizations. The Fusion Center is a well-established resource capable of identifying developing issues, mitigating intelligence gaps, and enabling the proper authority to respond effectively. It also has the capacity to develop the best-in-class reporting and monitoring capability for the Commonwealth.

The spirit of collaboration between faith and ethnic communities and the Fusion Center should be encouraged by implementing a reporting and tracking mechanism. For instance, the Work Group strongly encourages adding the public-facing report form (discussed in more detail below) on faith and ethnic group websites to increase awareness and accessibility of this resource. Furthermore, the information collected from the report form should be disseminated by the Fusion Center to the heads of VDOE, SCHEV, and other appropriate agencies to increase accountability. The following actions are also suggested for designing a comprehensive reporting and tracking mechanism for alleged incidents of antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry.

The Virginia Fusion Center is a collaborative effort between state and federal agencies in conjunction with local partners to share resources, expertise, and information, allowing agencies and partners to more quickly identify, detect, prevent, and respond to criminal activity, thoroughly educate law enforcement and partners, pursue and apprehend offenders, and obtain necessary evidence to support prosecution.²⁶ The collaborative and

²⁵ New York State Division of Human Rights, *Hate and Bias Prevention Unit*, <https://dhr.ny.gov/nohate>.

²⁶ Virginia Fusion Center, *Home*, <https://fusion.vsp.virginia.gov/>.

Commonwealth-wide authority of the Fusion Center is the prime location to house a best-in-class reporting and tracking mechanism for antisemitic acts and anti-religious bigotry.

Actions for the Creation of a Central Reporting Hub Through the Fusion Center:

1. The Fusion Center should create a public-facing report form similar to their Online Reporting Suspicious Activity Form.²⁷ The dedicated form for instances of antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry should use the Virginia Human Rights Act definition, the inclusion of the definition of antisemitism as found in Chapter 471 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly, a religious conscience clause and other legal guidance from the Office of the Attorney General to guide the response fields and obtain necessary information concerning reported incidents.²⁸
 - a. Relevant information to enable timely and thorough investigations includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - i. Reporting party and follow-up contact information (an anonymous option can be made available);
 - ii. Date and time of incident;
 - iii. Location of incident (public K-12 school, college, university, law enforcement jurisdiction);
 - iv. Type of incident (harassment, bullying, vandalism, etc.), and;
 - v. Photo, audio, or visual attachments
2. To increase awareness and accessibility, the public-facing report form should be made available on dedicated webpages on VDOE, SCHEV, DCJS, OAG, and Fusion Center sites. The report form should also be externally facing in other ways, allowing communities and stakeholders to share and link it for broader reach.
 - a. Each report submitted through the public-facing report form will be received securely on the backend by the Fusion Center who will expertly handle the secure information.
 - b. Upon receiving a report, the Fusion Center will determine if an immediate law enforcement response is necessary and will refer the complaint to the appropriate law enforcement entity or appropriate state agency.*
 - i. The Virginia Fusion Center will communicate with federal, state, and local law enforcement, as necessary, to determine if there is a violation of law. In the event of a breach of federal civil rights law, communication with the US Department of Justice and the FBI will help to ensure deconfliction of any investigation.

²⁷ Virginia Fusion Center, *Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR)*, <https://fusion.vsp.virginia.gov/sar/>.

²⁸ *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-3900 *et seq.*

- c. Upon receiving a notification of an incident from the Fusion Center, VDOE and SCHEV will contact the local public school division or public institution of higher education for follow-up and appropriate action.
**Note: Currently few, if any, state-owned complaint forms are shared between agencies. This approach would likely require agencies to enter into memorandums of understanding (MOU) to facilitate data-sharing and inter-agency cooperation. Specifically, the Fusion Center and the OAG would enter into an MOU for receiving complaints to avoid missing the 300-day statute of limitations.*
- 3. A public-facing table should be created and updated to display reported incident information. The public-facing table should be paired with the public-facing report form on the dedicated webpages of VDOE, SCHEV, DCJS, OAG, and Fusion Center websites.
 - a. All steps will be taken to ensure the protection of personally identifiable information and to avoid drawing conclusions on individual cases, especially those still in progress.²⁹
 - b. Publicly reported information could contain, but is not limited to:
 - i. The number of incidents that occurred in the calendar year;
 - ii. Geography (Virginia State Police division or Superintendents Region);
 - iii. Type of report/incident (harassment, bullying, vandalism, etc.);
 - iv. Number and nature of response (referral to state agency, active investigation, charges filed, etc.)
 - v. Follow up/conclusion of the investigation or action taken.
- 4. The Fusion Center should provide timely reports of incidents privately to the agency heads of VDOE, SCHEV and the OAG. The report will provide another layer of communication and accountability, ensuring that the agencies are aware of the number of incidents that are related to their agency.
- 5. Implementation of these recommendations should start with existing resources. However, future budget considerations could be considered to combat antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry.
 - a. Future budget considerations could include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Working with a contractor to build out the dashboard;
 - ii. Adding civilian personnel to triage incoming reports;
 - iii. Hiring additional Virginia State Police officers to investigate incidents of antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry;
 - iv. Bolstering the liaison and outreach efforts of the Virginia Fusion Center

²⁹ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (1974), and implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

Conclusion

The Commonwealth of Virginia has made significant strides to combat antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry through legislative, administrative, and educational efforts. From adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism to implementing new instructional standards and enhancing campus safety protocols, the Youngkin administration is fully committed to protecting the safety and religious freedom of Virginians.

This initial report is another step forward in the ongoing fight against hate that requires commitment, transparency, and collaboration. By recommending a comprehensive reporting and tracking system, developed in partnership with leaders across the Jewish and faith community, the groundwork is being laid for a safer Virginia where everyone can confidently pursue their dreams and beliefs without fear.

APPENDIX I: THE YOUNGKIN ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM AND OTHER ANTI-RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

The Administration's efforts have engaged the Secretaries of Education (SOE) and Public Safety and Homeland Security (PSHS), and agencies including the Department of Education (VDOE), State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), and the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). In the wake of the October 7th attack by the designated foreign terrorist organization group Hamas and the increase of antisemitic acts across the Commonwealth and Nation, a collaborative effort was launched to improve education and awareness of religious bigotry, to protect and preserve safe college campuses, and to foster productive and civil dialogues during contentious debates. Under Governor Youngkin's leadership, the Administration has taken the following actions to address antisemitism:

PROCLAMATIONS:

- Proclaimed January 16 as Religious Freedom Day each year of the Governor's term
- Proclaimed April as Arab American Heritage Month each year of the Governor's term
- Proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month each year of the Governor's term
- Proclaimed the Day of Prayer in May each year of the Governor's term
- Proclaimed Christian Heritage Week each year of the Governor's term
- Proclaimed October 7, 2024, as A Day of Remembrance for the Victims of October 7th Hamas Attacks on Israel³⁰

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS:

- Issued Executive Order 8 establishing the Commission to Combat Antisemitism (CCA) on the Governor's first day in office, January 14, 2022.³¹
- The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security organized an "extremism" training at George Mason University
- Worked closely with Boards of Visitors to include campus law enforcement and safety updates in regular board meetings
- Issued Executive Directive Six in October 2023 to combat antisemitism and other anti-religious bigotry following the October 7th attacks led by the designated foreign terrorist organization group Hamas.³²
- Signed HB 1606 (2023), formally adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition on Antisemitism
- Signed HB 713 (2024), which required the governing board of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement policies requiring that campus safety and emergency preparedness training program be provided to and completed by all first-year students

³⁰ Office of the Governor of Virginia, *Proclamations*, <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/proclamations/>.

³¹ Youngkin, Executive Order No.8.

³² Youngkin, Executive Directive No. 6.

- In September 2024, the Governor ordered all flags to be flown at half-staff in memory and honor of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, one of the victims of the October 7th attack³³

ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP WITH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES TO BUILD UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESS CONCERNS OF BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION

- In 2021, Governor Youngkin visited All Dulles Area Muslims Society (ADAMS) as Governor-elect
- Governor and Mrs. Youngkin hosted a Faith Leaders Christmas Reception at the Executive Mansion every year of the administration
- Governor and Mrs. Youngkin hosted a Hanukkah Reception at the Executive Mansion every year of the administration.
- Governor and Mrs. Youngkin attended an Iftar dinner or Ramadan celebration every year of the administration
- Governor Youngkin spoke at Jewish Advocacy Day in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025
- Governor Youngkin spoke at Muslim Advocacy Day in 2023, 2024, and 2025
- Governor Youngkin spoke at Faith & Freedom Coalition in 2024 and 2025
- Members of the Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh, and other faith communities have been hosted at the Executive Mansion multiple times through various receptions, including the AAPI Month Reception and other events
- The Youngkin Administration keeps faith communities updated on security resources and trainings, including the expanded Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Hate Crimes Grant Funding and the DHS Non-Profit Security Grant Program dispersed through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
- In May 2022, Governor Youngkin visited the West End Islamic Center after it was vandalized during Ramadan³⁴
- In December 2022, the Governor's Commission to Combat Antisemitism released its report³⁵
- In September 2023, Governor Youngkin hosted a roundtable with Muslim community leaders
- In October 2023, following the attack led by the designated foreign terrorist organization group Hamas on Israel, the Governor participated in three events with the Jewish Community:
 - o Northern Virginia – Attended and spoke at a vigil with Loudoun Chabad on October 9

³³ Governor Glenn Youngkin, *Governor Glenn Youngkin Statement on the Murder of Hersh Goldberg-Polin*, Sept. 1, 2024, <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2024/september/name-1032466-en.html>.

³⁴ Desiree Montilla, *Gov. Youngkin Visits West End Islamic Center Following Recent Vandalism of Prayer Space*, WWBT, May 2, 2022, <https://www.12onourside.com/2022/05/02/gov-youngkin-visits-west-end-islamic-center-following-recent-vandalism-prayer-space/>.

³⁵ Virginia Commission to Combat Antisemitism, *Final Report*.

- o Richmond – Spoke at Keneseth Beth Israel (KBI) vigil hosted by KBI and Rabbi Dovid Asher on October 16
- o Hampton Roads – participated in a round table listening session and conversation hosted by the Tidewater Jewish Federation on October 11
- o Governor Youngkin issued a written statement of support that was sent to the regional Jewish Federations, read at events he was unable to attend or sent to their lists, and other partners in the Jewish community
- In May 2024 the Youngkin Administration hosted a listening session with Muslim students, university, and community leaders
- In May 2024, Governor Youngkin spoke at the Republican Jewish Coalition meeting³⁶
- In June 2024, Governor Youngkin spoke at the Virginia Summit to Combat Antisemitism³⁷ and was awarded the Civic Leadership Award
- In August 2024, Governor Youngkin participated in a roundtable discussion regarding antisemitism on campuses at the Republican Governors Association retreat³⁸
- In September 2024, Governor Youngkin was a speaker at the Gala to Honor US-Israel Military Alliance³⁹
- On October 7, 2024, Governor Youngkin attended the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attack led by the designated foreign terrorist group Hamas on Israel at events in Hampton Roads and in Richmond
- In October 2024, Youngkin officials met with Muslim business leaders and the MOVE Muslim Chamber
- Governor and Mrs. Youngkin hosted a Jewish American Heritage Month Reception at the Executive Mansion in May 2025
- In April 2025, Governor Youngkin attended a gym dedication in remembrance of Hersh Goldberg-Polin at Rudlin Torah Academy, the Jewish Day School he attended⁴⁰
- Governor Youngkin attended CAM’s Jewish American Heritage Month Dinner in May 2025.⁴¹

³⁶ Republican Jewish Coalition, *RJC Leadership Summit Recap 2024*, https://www.rjchq.org/rjc_leadership_summit_recap_2024.

³⁷ Combat Antisemitism Movement, *Virginia Summit to Combat Antisemitism Brings Together State Officials to Foster Dialogue, Develop Strategies, and Propose Solutions to Fighting Hate*, June 3, 2024, <https://combatantisemitism.org/government-and-policy/virginia-summit-to-combat-antisemitism-brings-together-state-officials-to-foster-dialogue-develop-strategies-and-propose-solutions-to-fighting-hate/>.

³⁸ Combat Antisemitism Movement, *American Governors Discuss Ways to Counter Nationwide Rise of Antisemitism on College Campuses*, Aug. 14, 2024, <https://combatantisemitism.org/government-and-policy/american-governors-discuss-ways-to-counter-nationwide-rise-of-antisemitism-on-college-campuses/>.

³⁹ Combat Antisemitism Movement, *Virginia Beach Gala Honors U.S.-Israel Military Alliance as Nations Stand Firm Against Iran-Backed Terror*, Sept. 16, 2024, <https://combatantisemitism.org/press-release/virginia-beach-gala-honors-us-israel-military-alliance-as-nations-stand-firm-against-iran-backed-terror/>.

⁴⁰ A.J. Nwoko, *Community Gathers in Richmond to Remember Hersh Goldberg-Polin*, WTVR CBS 6, Apr. 22, 2025, <https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/hersh-golberg-polin-richmond-memorial-april-22-2025>.

⁴¹ Combat Antisemitism Movement, *Virginia Leaders Unite to Celebrate Jewish Heritage Month and Confront Rising Antisemitism*, May 19, 2025, <https://combatantisemitism.org/press-release/virginia-leaders-unite-to-celebrate-jewish-heritage-month-and-confront-rising-antisemitism/>.

LED POLICY AND SAFETY TRAINING SESSIONS

- The George Washington University Program on Extremism, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, hosted a one-day training on extremism on December 9, 2024. The course was approved for 8 hours of law enforcement in-service training
- The Governor and Secretary of Education hosted the first ever Higher Education Summit on Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in November 2023 to promote health and civil dialogue

SECRETARIES OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY – IMPROVING STUDENT SAFETY

- The Secretaries of Education and Public Safety & Homeland Security engage bimonthly with campus police chiefs across Virginia’s public and private two- and four-year colleges to provide resources on safe campus protests
- The Secretary of Education’s office worked with Boards of Visitors at each of the Commonwealth’s colleges and universities to protect peaceful protests by revising student codes of conduct
- The Secretary of Public Safety & Homeland Security created campus safety and emergency preparedness training guidelines to be available for all public and private institutions in accordance with House Bill 713 (2024)
- On October 18, 2023, the Campus Threat Assessment Task Force finalized best practices for campus security, and submitted a report with recommendations to DCJS
- In 2023, the Board of Education adopted new History and Social Science Standards of Learning which incorporate additional education on antisemitism awareness, Holocaust awareness, and Jewish history.⁴²

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

- The current budget allocates \$500,000 across the biennium for the Virginia Holocaust Museum to support the Alexander Lebenstein Teacher Education Institute program
 - The program organizes high-quality learning experiences, educational content, and exhibitions for students to learn about the Holocaust and other genocides. Additionally, the allocated budget funds support outreach and community-based programming such as the “Speaker’s Bureau,” which provides students with the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts from Holocaust survivors
- The current budget allocates \$5 million across the biennium for the Department of Criminal Justice Services to make competitive grants to combat hate crimes across the Commonwealth
- Governor Youngkin signed the following bills:

⁴² Virginia Department of Education, *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*.

- House Bill 1606 (2023) which formally adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism according to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)
- Senate Bill 7 (2024) and House Bill 18 (2024) which expanded Virginia's current hate crime legislation to incorporate ethnic origin – aligning with working definitions that include religious and ethnic examples of antisemitism

APPENDIX II: THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM AND RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

On May 19, 2025, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 48 to reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to safe educational environments free from discrimination in order to cultivate an environment across the Commonwealth grounded in connection, compassion, and mutual respect.⁴³ Further, the Executive Order holds with it the expectation that across the Commonwealth, the administration stands ready to act against antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry in Virginia's public schools and institutions of higher education.

In accordance with Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 48, the Virginia Department of Education provided the following information on August 11, 2025, for school superintendents to consider for implementation.

REQUIREMENTS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 48

The Virginia Department of Education was directed to engage in the following steps to follow the intent of the Executive Order, Section I:

- A. *Publish actionable resources supporting the inclusion of the definition of antisemitism as found in Chapter 471 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly; prohibition of conduct as related specifically to antisemitism; and, to make clear that the prohibition and other uses of the definition cannot and will not diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Virginia.*⁴⁴

In March 2023, Governor Youngkin signed into law the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism as an educational tool to better identify and fight the scourge of antisemitism.

The IHRA's working definition of antisemitism adopted by the Virginia General Assembly begins as follows:

*"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."*⁴⁵

⁴³ Youngkin, Executive Order No.8.

⁴⁴ Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, 2023, c. 471.

⁴⁵ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, *IHRA Non-Legally Binding Working Definition of Antisemitism*, adopted May 26, 2016, <https://holocaustremembrance.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/IHRA-non-legally-binding-working-definition-of-antisemitism-1.pdf>.

The IHRA Working Definition highlights several contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life including: calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews; making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews; and accusing the Jews as a people of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust. Additionally, phrases like “From the river to the sea” are also antisemitic. We encourage staff and students to be aware of modern antisemitism’s insidious nature and take a role in combating it, while ensuring that any rights protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Virginia are not diminished or infringed.

The IHRA website contains the Resources for Education Professionals webpage, which includes detailed guidance for curriculum developers and educational professionals for teaching and learning about the Holocaust and antisemitism.⁴⁶

- B. *Encourage treatment of harassment and discrimination that is motivated by or includes antisemitic intent, or bigotry against any religion, by any individual or as a result of school policies or programs on the school campus in the same manner as any other form of discrimination prohibited by state or federal law.*

Bullying, taunting and other negative actions towards students of any religion should never be tolerated. Take clear, swift actions to intervene with situations of bullying or harassment and review bullying prevention activities. Remind students of school and division policies related to offensive language, harassment, and bullying.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) supports school divisions and education professionals across the country in this critical work. The ADL Best Practices for Combating Antisemitism in K-12 Schools webpage lists recommendations of best practices to guide state education departments, education professionals, and school administrators in their K-12 schools.⁴⁷ Information and resources related to harassment and antisemitism can also be found in Virginia’s Executive Directive 6: Student Safety Resources: Considerations for Schools and Families.⁴⁸

- C. *Encourage local school divisions to review with teachers and principals their policies and procedures for approving additional ancillary teaching resources to ensure that teachers are using high-quality and accurate instructional materials to teach about Judaism, Jewish history, the Holocaust, and Israel.*

⁴⁶ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, *Resources for Education Professionals*, <https://holocaustremembrance.com/for-education-professionals>.

⁴⁷ Anti-Defamation League, *Best Practices for Combating Antisemitism in K-12 Schools*, <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/best-practices-combating-antisemitism-k-12-schools>.

⁴⁸ Youngkin, Executive Directive No. 6.

Guiding Principles and Expectations for Virginia’s Students

The 2023 History and Social Science *Standards of Learning* were approved by the Virginia Board of Education in April 2023. As related to the Holocaust, antisemitism, and genocide throughout history, the Guiding Principles and expectations for students’ learning make clear the following:

The standards provide an unflinching and fact-based coverage of world, United States, and Virginia history. Students will study the horrors of wars and genocide, including the Holocaust and the ethnic cleansing campaigns that have occurred throughout history and continue today. They [students] will better understand the abhorrent treatment of Indigenous peoples, the indelible stain of slavery, segregation, and racism in the United States and around the world, and the inhumanity and deprivations of totalitarian and communist regimes (p. 4).

These guiding principles, proactive actions of the Department, and articulated expectations for teaching and learning were established *before* Executive Order 48 was issued.

Addressing the Holocaust, Antisemitism, and Genocide through the *Standards of Learning*

Related content is introduced in United States History: 1865 to the Present and further explored in Virginia and United States History and World History II. There are opportunities to use content as examples in Civics and Government courses. Example applicable standards are as follows:

- **United States History: 1865 to the Present**
 - o USII.6h: The student will apply history and social science skills to understand the major causes and events of World War II and the effects of America’s role by examining the causes and consequences of the Holocaust including, but not limited to, Jewish life before the Holocaust, antisemitism, the rise of the Nazi Party, Nuremberg Laws, the persecution of Jews and other targeted groups, resistance efforts, the United States’ response, and the Nuremberg Trials.
- **Virginia and United States History**
 - o VUS.14f: The student will apply history and social science skills to analyze the United States’ involvement in World War II by analyzing the Holocaust, beginning with the history and role of antisemitism in the persecution of Jews, the persecutions of other targeted groups, challenges related to the immigration of Jews, Hitler’s “Final Solution,” liberation, postwar trials, postwar immigration to the United States, and the creation of the modern state of Israel.
- **World History and Geography: 1500 A.D. to the Present**
 - o WHII.9d: The student will apply history and social science skills to understand World War II by describing key causes, events, victims, and impacts of the

Holocaust, including antisemitism, the rise of the Nazi Party, Kristallnacht, the establishment of ghettos, concentration and death camps, mobile killing squads, rescue, Jewish resistance, and liberation.

- o WHII.12a: The student will apply history and social science skills to explain global changes during the late 20th and early 21st centuries by identifying modern era genocides and crimes against humanity including, but not limited to Mao's Cultural Revolution, the Stalin regime, Armenia, Cambodia, Fidel Castro's Cuba, Darfur, Rwanda, and China's minority Uyghur population.

Reference the K-12 History and Social Science *Standards of Learning* document for additional details.⁴⁹

Resources for Teaching the Holocaust and Other World Genocides

As an update to HB2409 (2009) and previous materials provided in 2009, the history and social science program at the Virginia Department of Education worked with a team of teachers, organizations, and Virginia museums to provide support for Virginia educators to meet the required instruction of the Holocaust and other world genocides through the Resources for Teaching the Holocaust and Other World Genocides Toolkit.

Within the World History II and Virginia and United States History Instructional Guides, content is further delineated within the Understanding the Standards and the Skills in Practice components to include Supporting Questions to guide teachers' planning and students' understanding.

Recognition of the Holocaust and Genocide

The Holocaust, by the definition of all major organizations, was an event that uniquely targeted the Jewish people for annihilation. During this era, as outlined in the 2023 History and Social Science *Standards of Learning* and the Resources for Teaching the Holocaust and Other World Genocides (2021), other groups were targeted, persecuted and murdered. Educational resources provided by the Department also utilize the 1948 UN Definition of Genocide.⁵⁰

- D. *Continue to make available high-quality instructional materials within the History and Social Science instructional guides and on the Department's GoOpenVA Hub that are accurate and complete in their coverage of Judaism, Jewish heritage and history, and Israel.*

⁴⁹ Virginia Department of Education, *History and Social Science Standards of Learning*.

⁵⁰ United Nations, *Definition of Genocide*, <https://www.un.org/en/genocide-prevention/definition>.

Educational Resources – GoOpenVA and External Partnerships

VA250 Collection: The Virginia Department of Education has partnered with VA250 with the goal of engaging students across the Commonwealth through extensive studies of history, democracy, and civics in order to promote principles of an informed citizenry and civic engagement. VDOE has an established resource collection for educators, organizations, and external partners through GoOpenVA. The VA250 Collection enriches Virginia History and Civics Standards through linkages to Virginia museums and historical institutions. These institutions will begin the work of making the Standards come alive through videos, pictures, tours, lessons, and artifacts. Educators and those accessing these resources should begin with the Standards pertaining to the events of the country's founding and Revolutionary War and civics topics. This resource collection will continue to expand leading up to the 250th Commemoration.

High-quality instructional materials supported through external partners and organizations: The external partners represent a group of experts – including historians and professors of institutions of higher education and educators from museums and cultural organizations – with a specific area of focus. Early June 2025, members of this group (representation from approximately 70 entities, cultural groups, and museums) were invited to learn about the History and Social Science Instructional Guides aligned to the 2023 History and Social Science Standards of Learning, learn about the process and tools necessary for submission of resources to support history and social science classroom instruction, and were provided specified professional learning sessions based upon their resource submissions. The submissions of the external partners will continue to elevate and enhance the content within the instructional guides and will be made available to the field no later than January 2026. Resources to the field from external partners will be linked within instructional guides and categorized by grade level/course within the GoOpenVA hub as an additional instructional resource collection.

A support document for division superintendents and leadership teams is provided in reference to Sections C and D.⁵¹

VIRGINIA RULES RESOURCES TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

In addition to the requirements of Executive Order 48, on August 6, 2025, Attorney General Jason S. Miyares announced the publication of a new Virginia Rules lesson focused on combating antisemitism. This new lesson explains how Virginia laws on discrimination and hate crimes protect Jewish Virginians. The goal of the lesson is to help students understand what antisemitism is and to learn when it constitutes punishable harassment, discrimination, or a hate crime.


⁵¹ Virginia Department of Education, Superintendent's Memo #118-24, May 10, 2024, <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=63084>.

Superintendents are encouraged to share this resource with educators within their divisions. To learn more about Virginia Rules (VARules) and additional details about the new Virginia Rules lesson, reference the following press release – August 6, 2025 - Attorney General Miyares Publishes New Virginia Rules Resources to Combat Antisemitism..⁵²

⁵² Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, *Attorney General Miyares Publishes New Virginia Rules & Resources to Combat Antisemitism*, August 6, 2025, <https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2894-august-6-2025-attorney-general-miyares-publishes-new-virginia-rules-resources-to-combat-antisemitism>.

APPENDIX III: VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY IN VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

At its August 28, 2025, board meeting, the Virginia Board of Education unanimously adopted the resolution below:



Virginia Board of Education Resolution for Combating Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools


WHEREAS, on May 19, 2025, Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 48, Combating Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education, which reaffirms the Commonwealth's commitment to safe educational environments free from discrimination with an intentional effort to cultivate an environment across the Commonwealth grounded in connection, compassion, and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, Section I of Executive Order 48 directs the Virginia Department of Education to:


- A. Publish actionable resources supporting the inclusion of the definition of antisemitism as found in Chapter 471 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly; prohibition of conduct as related specifically to antisemitism; and, to make clear that the prohibition and other uses of the definition cannot and will not diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Virginia.
- B. Encourage treatment of harassment and discrimination that is motivated by or includes antisemitic intent, or bigotry against any religion, by any individual or as a result of school policies or programs on the school campus in the same manner as any other form of discrimination prohibited by state or federal law.
- C. Encourage local school divisions to review with teachers and principals their policies and procedures for approving additional ancillary teaching resources to ensure that teachers are using high-quality and accurate instructional materials to teach about Judaism, Jewish history, the Holocaust, and Israel.
- D. Continue to make available high-quality instructional materials within the History and Social Science instructional guides and on the Department's GoOpenVA Hub that are accurate and complete in their coverage of Judaism, Jewish heritage and history, and Israel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Virginia Board of Education continues to build on and support the ongoing comprehensive work of the Virginia Department of Education, including providing division superintendents with actionable steps to ensure the intent of Executive Order 48 through direct correspondence by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; providing resources for education professionals and detailed guidance for curriculum developers emphasizing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of antisemitism and for teaching and learning about the Holocaust and antisemitism; providing information and resources related to harassment and antisemitism in conjunction with Executive Directive 6, Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry and Protecting the Freedom to Worship in the Commonwealth of Virginia, issued by Governor Youngkin on October 31, 2023; providing educators with high-quality, complete, and historically accurate instructional materials to teach about Judaism, Jewish history, the Holocaust, and Israel through its History and Social Science Standards of Learning, Guiding Principles, instructional guides, and the Virginia Department of Education's GoOpenVA Hub; and

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Virginia Board of Education stands ready to act against antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry in Virginia's public schools and classrooms.



Grace Turner Creasey, M.Ed.
President, Board of Education
Commonwealth of Virginia



Emily Anne Gullikson, M.Ed. J.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Commonwealth of Virginia

APPENDIX IV: STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION RECAP

As required by Governor Youngkin's EO 48, at its September 16, 2025, meeting, the State Council will adopt a "model resolution" on antisemitism for consideration by governing boards of Virginia public higher education institutions. The Council's model resolution fulfills all the terms specified in EO 48, including the adoption of the non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism, including its contemporary examples, as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on May 26, 2016.

Please see the resolution and the model resolution language here:

Resolution:

WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin has released Executive Order 48, *Combating Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education*, with the stated intention to "reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to safe educational environments free from discrimination and continue to act against antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry in Virginia's public schools and institutions of higher education;" and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 48 directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to publish a model resolution for institutions of higher education to adopt, and specifies four provisions to be included in the model resolution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council adopts the following as a model resolution for governing boards of Virginia public institutions to adopt in accord with Executive Order 48:

Model Resolution

WHEREAS, Governor Youngkin has released Executive Order 48, *Combating Antisemitism and Anti-religious Bigotry in Virginia Public Schools and Institutions of Higher Education*, with the stated intention to "reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to safe educational environments free from discrimination and continue to act against antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry in Virginia's public schools and institutions of higher education;" and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 48 directed the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to publish a model resolution for institutions of higher education to adopt, and specified four provisions to be included in the model resolution;

WHEREAS, [Institution Name] is committed to promoting and fostering an environment free of antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry;

BE IT RESOLVED, that [Board name] adopts the following provisions and directs the [president/chancellor/superintendent] of [institution name] to incorporate each provision in relevant and applicable policies of [institution name]:

- i. (a) In accord with Chapter 471 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly, [institution name] adopts the Working Definition of Antisemitism as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on May 26, 2016, including the contemporary examples of antisemitism set forth therein.

This states that 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.

(b) The definition of antisemitism referenced in (a) above shall be incorporated into all student codes of conduct of [institution name];

- ii. [Institution name] shall treat harassment and discrimination that is motivated by or includes antisemitic intent, or bigotry against any religion, by any individual or as a result of school policies or programs on the school campus in the same manner as any other form of discrimination prohibited by state or federal law;
- iii. [Institution name] shall include in all codes of conduct prohibited conduct as it specifically relates to antisemitism and anti-religious bigotry, which shall include, but not be limited to:

1. harassment and discrimination against Jewish individuals in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352;
2. antidiscrimination regulations provided by the United States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice; and
3. relevant state-level antidiscrimination laws.

- iv. In no case shall provisions i.-iii. above be implemented in any way that diminishes or infringes upon any right protected under the United States Constitution, including but not limited to the First Amendment to the Constitution, or under the Constitution of Virginia.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the [president/chancellor/superintendent] shall submit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Education and the Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia no later than December 31, 2025.