

MOVING TOWARD NEVER AGAIN

State of Holocaust Education in the United States

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This review of the state of Holocaust education in the United States as of August 2022 combines the 2019 U.S. country report to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), "[Review of Holocaust Education in the United States](#)," with the [Where Holocaust Education is Required in the United States](#) webpage from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)'s website. I also provided supplemental research on state Holocaust commissions and state legislation. Below are the key findings, followed by the full annex linking to each state's intervention (the ways in which Holocaust education guidelines are established per state).

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **39** out of 50 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia (76%) have state-level Holocaust education interventions. **11** U.S. states plus the District of Columbia have no formal Holocaust education curriculum guidance or state-level mandates.
- Because there is no federal education mandate, there are literally dozens of different ways in which Holocaust education guidelines are established per state.
 - **Legislation** creates either Holocaust education curriculum suggestions or requirements; or creates Holocaust commissions or councils, which advise on curriculum guidance and remembrance programming.
 - **Executive mandates** (i.e., from Governors) create Holocaust commissions or councils, which advise on curriculum guidance and remembrance programming.
 - **State Departments of Education** provide curriculum guidance on Holocaust education and remembrance programming.
- Some legislation, even if highly detailed, is not mandatory, i.e., in Pennsylvania or Utah. ***Legislation, if passed, should mandate Holocaust curriculum guidance.***
- Despite the availability and high quality of the curriculum guidance and resources of the [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) (USHMM), only North Carolina and Virginia make direct reference to USHMM resources.
 - Teaching is highly subjective to the individual teacher, and thus a highly motivated teacher in Iowa or New Mexico, where there are neither Holocaust education curriculum requirements nor a Holocaust commission, will not solely rely on the state-mandated curriculum to inform her lesson plans.
 - This is why Holocaust education legislation is important: ***Legislators can make USHMM and other valuable resources easily available to educators by passing Holocaust education legislation directing educators to the appropriate channels, with or without providing funding for grants or professional development opportunities.***
- The [Never Again Education Act](#) allocates \$10 million over the next five years to the USHMM to develop and distribute Holocaust education resources throughout all 50 states. ***Now is the time to capitalize on existing and expanding USHMM resources.***
- States are acting on Holocaust education. Sixteen U.S. states in 2020-2021 alone introduced state-level Holocaust education legislation.

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KEY
Legislation
Commission
Legislation and Commission
State Department of Education mandate

ALABAMA

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1999

Alabama (Commission)

- The Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC) was established in 1999 by the Alabama Legislature in order to foster remembrance of the horrible atrocities committed during the Holocaust and other times in human history as the result of bigotry, discrimination, and the abuse of power; and to foster understanding, through education and awareness, of the basic principles of human rights and equal protection under the law.
- The Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC), a state agency, utilizes both public and private resources to provide Holocaust and genocide education to all Alabamians. Through Holocaust and genocide education, the Commission seeks to foster an understanding of one of the darkest periods in the history of mankind.
- Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC) Educational Grants are awarded to Holocaust education programs and projects which promote a moral and ethical response to prejudice, hatred, and indifference for the benefit of all humanity.

ARIZONA

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2020

Arizona (Legislation)

- Mandatory instruction of the Holocaust and other genocides at least once in grade 7 or 8
- High school graduation includes 1 mandatory credit on world history/geography, to include instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides

ARKANSAS

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2021

Arkansas (Legislation, effective 2022)

- Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, Holocaust education shall be taught in public schools in a manner that:
 - Generates an understanding of the causes, course, and effects of the Holocaust;
 - Develops dialogue with students on the ramifications of bullying, bigotry, stereotyping, and discrimination; and
 - Encourages tolerance of diversity and reverence for human dignity for all citizens in a pluralistic society

- Board of Education, in conjunction with Holocaust education experts at all levels, “shall develop and distribute curricula, standards, materials, and units relating to Holocaust education for grade-appropriate grades 5-12 instruction in all public schools
- Defines “Holocaust” as the systemic, state-sponsored persecution and attempted annihilation of Jews and other groups by the Nazi regime in Germany between 1933-1945, which resulted in the murder of approximately six million Jews and five million others.

CALIFORNIA

Intervention: Holocaust education and Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 1988, 2021

California (Legislation and Commission)

- Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide (1988)
 - Grade 10, on lesson “Students analyze the causes and consequences of World War II”: Analyze the Nazi policy of pursuing racial purity, especially against the European Jews; its transformation into the Final Solution; and the Holocaust that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish civilians.
 - Provides a list of books and resources “to start”
- California “Never Again Education Act”, [SB 693](#) (2021)
 - Establish a Governor’s Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education—17 leading experts on genocide education—within the governor’s office. That council would serve as a “clearinghouse” for the latest innovations in Holocaust and genocide education.
 - Allocates \$2 million in grants for professional development for teachers
 - Not a curriculum mandate

COLORADO

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2020

Colorado (Legislation)

- [HB 20-1336](#): Holocaust And Genocide Studies In Public Schools
 - The act requires the state board to adopt standards related to Holocaust and genocide studies on or before July 1, 2021. The adoption of standards is conditional on the receipt of gifts, grants, or donations.
 - The act requires each school district board of education and charter school to incorporate the standards on Holocaust and genocide studies adopted by the state board into an existing course that is currently a condition of high school graduation for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2023, if the standards are adopted by the state board on or before July 1, 2023.
 - The act requires the department of education to create and maintain a publicly available resource bank of materials pertaining to Holocaust and genocide courses and programs, which must be available for access by public schools no later than July 1, 2021.

CONNECTICUT

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2018

Connecticut (Legislation)

- [Public Act 18-24](#), Connecticut Holocaust and Genocide Education and Awareness Act
 - Public schools in Connecticut are required to provide Holocaust and genocide education to their students beginning on July 1, 2018.
 - The Act states, “each local and regional board of education shall include Holocaust and genocide education and awareness as part of the social studies curriculum for the school district.”
 - Further, the Act authorizes local and regional school boards to make use of “existing and appropriate public or private materials, personnel and other resources” in their efforts to provide Holocaust and genocide education, and encourages districts to seek “gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations,” to support implementation of the Act.
 - The Act does not identify specific grade levels in which the Holocaust and/or genocide shall be covered, nor does the Act elaborate on the scope, content, and specific learning objectives of the required Holocaust and genocide education. While the Act does mandate that the Holocaust and genocide be taught in the context of a district’s social studies curriculum, it should be noted the Act does not preclude these topics being addressed in other content areas, such as English Language Arts.
- Resource from the Connecticut Department of Education: [Teaching the Holocaust](#) and Genocide

DELAWARE

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2020

Delaware (Legislation)

- [House Bill 318](#), AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION
- This Act requires the Department of Education to establish and implement a curriculum on the Holocaust and genocide for students in grades 6 through 12. Teaching the lessons learned from the Holocaust and other genocides helps cultivate the spirit of human resilience, courage, heroism, and tolerance. Education about the Holocaust and genocide provide a context to learn about the danger that befalls us when hatred goes unchallenged and there is indifference in the face of oppression of others.
- The Halina Wind Preston Holocaust Education Committee can provide guidance, academic content assistance, resources, and assistance with curricula development to deliver quality Holocaust and genocide education.

FLORIDA

Intervention: Holocaust education and Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 1994

Florida (Legislation and Commission)

- 2021 Florida Statutes (based on [SB 660](#)):
 - 1. 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, including the policy, definition, and historical and current examples of antisemitism, as described in s. 1000.05(7), and the prevention of antisemitism. Each school district must annually certify and provide evidence to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that the requirements of this paragraph are met. The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input from the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education or from any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational organizations. The department may contract with any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational organizations to develop training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.
 - 2. The second week in November shall be designated as "Holocaust Education Week" in this state in recognition that November is the anniversary of Kristallnacht, widely recognized as a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.
- [Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education](#) (1994)
 - Commission's [Education Resources](#)

GEORGIA

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Executive mandate

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1986, 1988

Georgia (Commission)

- The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is a secular, non-partisan state-agency administratively attached to the Georgia Board of Regents.
- The Commission was established by Executive Order by Joe Frank Harris in 1986. Governor Zell Miller re-established the Commission upon taking office and charged it with creating education programs for the citizens. Then in 1998 by act of the Georgia General Assembly the Commission became a permanent state agency ([HB 1664](#)).
- [Online Resources about Teaching the Holocaust](#)

ILLINOIS

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2005

Illinois (Legislation)

- Public Act 094-0478 (Effective Date: 8/5/2005)
- Every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of the Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945. This period in world history is known as the Holocaust, during which 6,000,000 Jews and millions of non-Jews were exterminated. One of the universal lessons of the Holocaust is that national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred can overtake any nation or society, leading to calamitous consequences. To reinforce that lesson, such curriculum shall include an additional unit of instruction studying other acts of genocide across the globe. This unit shall include, but not be limited to, the Armenian Genocide, the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. The studying of this material is a reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples from all nations to never again permit the occurrence of another Holocaust and a recognition that crimes of genocide continue to be perpetrated across the globe as they have been in the past and to deter indifference to crimes against humanity and human suffering wherever they may occur.
- The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and make available to all school boards instructional materials which may be used as guidelines for development of a unit of instruction under this Section; provided, however, that each school board shall itself determine the minimum amount of instruction time which shall qualify as a unit of instruction satisfying the requirements of this Section.
- Sec. 8.29. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly.

INDIANA

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: State Department of Education mandate

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2014

Indiana (State Department of Education mandate)

- Indiana Academic Standards, World History and Civilization, Standards Approved March 2014
- Standard 6 An Era of Global Conflicts, Challenges, Controversies, and Changes: 1900 CE to the Present: Students analyze and explain trends and events of global significance, such as world wars, international controversies and challenges, and cross-cultural changes which have influenced our modern world.
 - WH.6.5 Examine the causes, course, and effects of the Holocaust including accounts of camp inmates, survivors, liberators, and perpetrators; and, summarize world responses including the Nuremberg Trials.

KANSAS

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Executive mandate

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1987

Kansas (Commission)

KENTUCKY

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2018

Kentucky (Legislation)

- In 2018, the Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 128 (2018). HB 128 (2018) amends KRS 156.160 to require every public middle and high school's curriculum to include instruction about the Holocaust and other cases of genocide
- Kentucky Department of Education [Guidance for Holocaust Curriculum Implementation](#)
 - KRS 160.345 (g) The school council shall determine which textbooks, instructional materials and student support services shall be provided in the school. Subject to available resources, the local board shall allocate an appropriation to each school that is adequate to meet the school's needs related to instructional materials and school-based student support services, as determined by the school council.
 - KRS 160.345 (i) 1. The school council shall adopt a policy to be implemented by the principal in the following additional areas: 1. Determination of curriculum, including needs assessment, curriculum development and responsibilities under KRS 158.6453(7).
- HB 128 (2018) requires Holocaust and other cases of genocide education in middle and high school, but it does not dictate the discipline(s) in which this material is taught. In order to provide guidance on how local SBDMs might determine where Holocaust and other cases of genocide education may fit in middle and high school curriculum, suggested connections are made between the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies and the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing.

LOUISIANA

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2021

Louisiana (Legislation, pending)

- [HB416](#)
 - Requires public school governing authorities to provide instruction relative to World War II and the Holocaust to each student in grades nine through twelve; to provide for the incorporation of the instruction into an existing required course; to specify requirements relative to the content of the instruction; to require training for certain teachers relative to such instruction; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.
 - [Status](#): Subject to call—Senate final passage; NOTE: FAILED IN SENATE

MAINE

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2021

Maine (Legislation, effective 2023)

- H.P. 1235 - L.D. 1664: An Act To Integrate African American Studies and the History of Genocide into the Statewide System of Learning Results
 - History of genocide. The history of genocide, including the Holocaust, must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4

MARYLAND

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: State Department of Education

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? No (*Note: Measure failed*)

Year: 2019

Maryland (State Department of Education mandate)

- [Maryland State Department of Education](#) Holocaust education requirements (**note: did not pass**)

MASSACHUSETTS

Intervention: Genocide education, including the Holocaust

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2021

Massachusetts (Legislation)

- [House Bill 692](#) and [State Bill S.2525](#): Genocide Education
- In December 2021, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker the genocide education bill into law. The bill calls for genocide education to be included in middle and high school curricula; and creates a Genocide Education Trust, ensuring teachers have educational resources and training to develop the curriculum.

MICHIGAN

Intervention: Holocaust education and Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2016

Michigan (Legislation and Commission)

- House Bill 4493 (2015), [Public Act 170](#) of 2016 (Effective: 6/14/2016)
 - Sec. 1168. (1) Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the board of a school district or board

of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that the school district's or public school academy's social studies curriculum for grades 8 to 12 includes age- and grade-appropriate instruction about genocide, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide.

- The legislature recommends a combined total of 6 hours of this instruction during grades 8 to 12. (2) Subsection (1) does not preclude a school district or public school academy from including instruction described in subsection (1) in other subject areas.
- (3) The governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education is created as a temporary commission described in section 4 of article V of the state constitution of 1963. (4) The governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education shall consist of 15 members appointed by the governor. Members shall be individuals who have a particular interest or expertise in genocide education or Holocaust education, or both.
- (5) If the governor determines that sufficient private funding is available for the operations of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education, the governor shall appoint the members of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education within 60 days after the effective date of this section. (6) If a vacancy occurs on the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education, the governor shall make an appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. (7) The governor may remove a member of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education for incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause. (8) The first meeting of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education shall be called by the governor. At the first meeting, the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education shall elect from among its members a chairperson and other officers as it considers necessary or appropriate. After the first meeting, the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently at the call of the chairperson or if requested by 8 or more members. (9) A majority of the members of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education appointed and serving constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the council. A majority of the members present and serving are required for official action of the council. A member may not vote by proxy. (10)
- The business that the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the council held in compliance with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. (11) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education in the performance of an official function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246. (12) Members of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education shall serve without compensation. However, if funding is available for this purpose from private sources, members of the council may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members of the council.
- (13) State funds shall not be used for the operations of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education.
- (14) The governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education shall do all of the following:
 - (a) Identify, to the extent possible, all sources of strategies and content for providing and enhancing genocide education to students.
 - (b) Advise the superintendent of public instruction, school districts, public school academies, and nonpublic schools in this state on strategies and content for providing and enhancing genocide education to students.
 - (c) Identify, to the extent possible, all programs and resources to train teachers in providing genocide education to students and share these programs and resources with the superintendent of public instruction, school districts, public school academies, and nonpublic schools in this state.
 - (d) Promote, within the schools and general population of this state, implementation of genocide education. This duty includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
 - (i) In accordance with 2004 PA 10, engendering and coordinating events, activities, and education that will appropriately memorialize the victims of the Holocaust, such as

- observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Days of Remembrance.
- (ii) In accordance with 2002 PA 558, engendering and coordinating events, activities, and education that will appropriately memorialize the victims of the Armenian Genocide, such as observance of the Michigan Days of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.
 - (iii) Engendering and coordinating events, activities, and education that will appropriately memorialize the victims of other genocides. (e) Secure private funding for the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education. The governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education may also apply for and accept grants and receive gifts, donations, and other financial support from private sources, in accordance with state law, for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this section. (f) Carry out any other tasks that it considers to be advisable to support the ability of this state to meet its goals in providing genocide education. (g) Submit an annual report to the legislature on the progress and status of the council.
- (15) With respect to its duties, the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education is an advisory body only. **There is no right or obligation on the part of this state or its subdivisions, officials, or employees to implement the findings or recommendations of the governor's council on genocide and Holocaust education unless further legislation is enacted that specifically authorizes implementation of those findings or recommendations.**

MISSISSIPPI

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 2013

Mississippi (Commission)

- [Mississippi Commission](#) on the Holocaust

MISSOURI

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Executive mandate

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 2019

Missouri (Commission)

- [Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission](#)

NEBRASKA

Intervention: Holocaust Education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2022

Nebraska (Legislation)

- (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt measurable academic content standards for at least the grade levels required for statewide assessment pursuant to section 79-760.03. The standards shall cover the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- (2)(a) The board shall also adopt measurable academic content standards for the following as part of the social studies standards:
 - (i) Financial literacy; and
 - (ii) Education on the Holocaust and other acts of genocide as recognized by the Congress of the United States or the United Nations as of January 1, 2022.
- (b) The board shall also adopt measurable academic content standards for computer science and technology education under the mathematics, science, or career and technical education standards.
- (3) Academic content standards adopted or recommended pursuant to this section shall be sufficiently clear and measurable to be used for testing student performance with respect to mastery of the content described in the state standards.
- (4) The State Board of Education shall develop a plan to review and update standards for each subject area every seven years. The state board plan shall include a review of commonly accepted standards adopted by school districts.

NEVADA

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1989

Nevada (Commission)

- The Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust was established by the Nevada Legislature in 1989 under Nevada Revised Statute 233G.
- The duties of the Council are to develop educational programs for children and adults on issues related to the Holocaust, to create reports, and to advise public and private bodies throughout Nevada on Holocaust education.
- It is also responsible for its own fundraising, although some money is allocated by the legislature.
- The Council consists of eleven members appointed by the governor. It works with the Clark County School District, the Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada, the Anti-Defamation League, and other organizations to develop curriculum and programs for students, hold teacher education workshops, and provide funding for speakers and materials.
- The Council supports two research collections: the Shia Szut Holocaust Research Collection in Washoe County at the Northwest Branch Library and the Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center Library and Media Center in Las Vegas. Edythe Katz-Yarchever was the first chairperson of both the Council and the Holocaust Resource Center. In 2015 Doug Unger was chairperson and Katz-Yarchever was honorary chairperson.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2020

New Hampshire (Legislation)

- July 2020, HB 1135, among other things, “relative to Holocaust and genocide studies legislation and establishing a commission to study genocide education.”
- HB 1135 makes Holocaust education compulsory in New Hampshire schools and establishes a commission to study best teaching practices for the subject.
- 3-E:2-f Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education.
 - I. There is established a commission to study best practices for teaching students how intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred and discrimination have evolved in the past, and can evolve into mass violence and genocide, such as the Holocaust.
 - II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:
 - (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
 - (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
 - (c) The commissioner of education, or designee.
 - (d) One high school teacher, appointed by the governor.
 - (e) One middle school teacher, appointed by the governor.
 - (f) One school administrator, appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association.
 - (g) One school curriculum coordinator, appointed by NEA-NH.
 - (h) The Roman Catholic bishop of Manchester, or designee.
 - (i) A representative of the New Hampshire Council of Churches, appointed by the council.
 - (j) A representative of the Keene state college Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, appointed by the college president.
 - (k) Two members appointed by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, one of whom shall be a religious leader.
 - (l) Two survivors or direct descendants of a survivor of either the Holocaust or another genocide, one appointed by the president of the senate and one appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
 - (m) A representative appointed by the Anti-Defamation League, New England region.
 - III. The commission shall:
 - (a) Recommend model school district policies for Holocaust and genocide education.
 - (b) Recommend to the state board of education rules for fulfilling the Holocaust and genocide education requirement.
 - (c) Identify best practices for teaching Holocaust and genocide education and the appropriate number of hours of instruction at multiple grade levels.
 - (d) Identify existing teaching materials and curriculum as well as strategies and content for providing and enhancing genocide education to students.
 - (e) Identify in-service education opportunities for educators.
 - (f) Promote, within the schools and the general population of the state, implementation of Holocaust and genocide education.

- IV. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.
- V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.
- VI. Report. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction over education, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the state board of education, the governor, and the state library. A preliminary report shall be submitted on or before January 1, 2021. An annual report shall be submitted on or before November 1, 2021 and each year thereafter. The commission shall monitor the implementation by grade, curriculum, and hours of instruction. A final report shall be submitted on or before November 1, 2024.

NEW JERSEY

Intervention: Holocaust education and Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation and Executive mandate

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 1994

New Jersey (Legislation and Commission)

- The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education was established in 1991. Prior to that, under the guidance and leadership of Governor Tom Kean, New Jersey in 1982, established the first Council on Holocaust Education in the country. In 1994, under the continued leadership of Governor Christine Todd Whitman, the legislation mandating the teaching of the Holocaust and genocide was signed into law.
- 1994 New Jersey Holocaust Education Mandate required the inclusion of instruction on the Holocaust and genocide into the elementary and high school curriculum of every public school district in the state.
 - The law indicates that issues of bias, prejudice and bigotry, including bullying through the teaching of the Holocaust and genocide, shall be included for all children from K-12th grade. Because this is a law and in Statute any changes in standards would not impact the requirement of education on this topic in all New Jersey public schools.
 - Every board of education shall include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school pupils.
 - The instruction shall enable pupils to identify and analyze applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior: to understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice and discrimination; and to understand that issues of moral dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on life. The instruction shall further emphasize the personal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens.
- As governor in 1982, Tom Kean created by executive order the New Jersey Advisory Council on Holocaust Education. The core mission of the Council was to be carried out through recommendations to the Commissioner of Education to facilitate and implement Holocaust education objectives through programs and curricula in the schools of New Jersey. It was the forerunner to our present New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

- The core mission of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is to promote Holocaust education in the State of New Jersey.
 - On a continual basis, the Commission shall survey the status of Holocaust/Genocide Education;
 - design, encourage and promote the implementation of Holocaust and genocide education and awareness;
 - provide programs in New Jersey; and coordinate designated events that will provide appropriate memorialization of the Holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state.
 - The Commission will provide assistance and advice to the public and private schools and will meet with county and local school officials, and other interested public and private organizations, to assist with the study of the Holocaust and genocide.
 - For recommendations of incorporating Holocaust and genocide education into grades K – 12 curriculum, the Commission encourages educators to use the study guides available on the Commission website at, [New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education - Curriculum](#).

NEW YORK

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2020, 2022

New York (Legislation)

- Article 17, Instruction in Certain Subjects
- § 801. Courses of instruction in patriotism and citizenship and in certain historic documents. 1. In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obligation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, civic education and values, our shared history of diversity, the role of religious tolerance in this country, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground railroad), **the Holocaust**, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state.
- A 2022 legislative package signed into law included the below pieces of legislation:
 - [Legislation \(A.472C /S.121B\)](#) Will Help Ensure that New York State Schools are Properly Educating Students on the Holocaust
 - Section 1. The commissioner of education is authorized and directed to conduct a survey regarding instruction on the Holocaust within the state. Such survey shall focus on identifying which school districts subject to section eight hundred one of the education law provide instruction on the Holocaust. Such survey shall include as appropriate, questions on how the district is meeting the learning standards for instruction requirements on the Holocaust pursuant to section eight hundred one of the education law. Such survey shall also require an attestation from each school district superintendent that indicates instruction related to the Holocaust is provided at all appropriate grade levels in compliance with section eight hundred one of the education law.
 - 2. Findings shall include detailed results of the survey, the extent the survey data submitted was compliant with section eight hundred one of the education law, and if needed, recommendations to strengthen provisions of law if not compliant. A report of the findings of such survey shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly the first of January following the effective date of this act or one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this act, whichever is later.

- 3. Each school district that does not respond to such survey or does not affirmatively attest that such instruction is provided pursuant to section two of this act shall prepare and implement a corrective action plan to comply with the instruction required by section eight hundred one of the education law. Such corrective action plan shall be submitted for approval by the commissioner of education in a timeframe, and form and format, acceptable to the commissioner.
- 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
- [Legislation \(A.3719A/S.117A\)](#) Requires Museums To Acknowledge Art Stolen from the Jewish Community during the Nazi Era in Europe
 - 1. Section 233-aa of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision to read as follows: Every museum which has on display any identifiable works of art known to have been created before nineteen hundred forty-five and which changed hands due to theft, seizure, confiscation, forced sale or other involuntary means in Europe during the Nazi era (nineteen hundred thirty-three--nineteen hundred forty-five) shall, to the extent practicable, prominently place a placard or other signage acknowledging such information along with such display.
 - 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
- [Legislation \(A.9338/S.8318\)](#) Requires the Department of Financial Services To Publish a List of Banks that Voluntarily Waive Fees for Holocaust Reparation Payments
 - Section 1. The banking law is amended by adding a new section 18-b to read as follows: Holocaust reparations payment fees. 1. For the purposes of this section, “victims or targets of Nazi persecution” means any individual, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, unincorporated association, community, congregation, group, organization, or other entity persecuted or targeted for persecution by the Nazi Regime because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical or mental disability or handicap, or the heirs, successors, administrators, executors, affiliates, or assignees of such victims or targets, or any other claimant receiving funds from an eligible settlement fund, or from an eligible grantor trust established for the benefit of such victims or targets. An eligible settlement fund is an entity that is treated for federal income tax purposes as a designated or qualified settlement fund, as such term is defined in section 468B of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, which is established for the principal purpose of resolving and satisfying claims arising from or in connection with any act or omission in any way relating to the Holocaust, World War II and its prelude and aftermath, victims or targets of Nazi persecution, transactions with or actions of the Nazi Regime, or treatment of refugees fleeing Nazi persecution by or in the Swiss Confederation. An eligible grantor trust is a grantor trust which is established for the principal purpose of resolving and satisfying such claims.
 - 2. The superintendent shall maintain and annually update a list of banks and other financial institutions doing business in the state that voluntarily waive wire transfer fees and other processing fees imposed for automated deposits or transfers of amounts received (including accumulated interest) by victims or targets of Nazi persecution from an eligible settlement fund, or from an eligible grantor trust established for the benefit of such victims or targets. The department shall make the list available to the public on the department’s website.

NORTH CAROLINA

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1985

[North Carolina \(Commission\)](#)

- Contains resources from the USHMM and the NC Council on the Holocaust

OHIO

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 2021, pending

Ohio (Legislation)

- [Senate Bill 372](#), “Create Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission,” passed the Ohio Senate in December 2020
- [The Holocaust & Genocide Memorial & Education Commission](#)

OKLAHOMA

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2022

Oklahoma (Legislation)

- [Senate Bill 1671](#): Requires Oklahoma public school students in grades six through 12 to learn about the Holocaust.
 - A. The State Department of Education, in consultation with experts in Holocaust education, shall develop and make available to public schools resources related to Holocaust education for grade appropriate instruction of students in grades six through twelve.
 - B. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, Holocaust education shall be taught to students in grades six through twelve in public schools in this state, as prescribed in the Oklahoma Academic Standards. Holocaust education may be integrated into one or more existing courses of study and shall be taught in a manner that 1. Generates an understanding of the causes, course, and effects of the Holocaust; 2. Develops dialogue with students on the ramifications of bullying, bigotry, stereotyping, and discrimination; and 3. Encourages tolerance of diversity and reverence for human dignity for all citizens in a pluralistic society. C. The State Department of Education, in consultation with experts in Holocaust education, shall develop and implement high quality professional learning opportunities for Holocaust education teachers. D. As used in this section, “Holocaust” means the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and attempted annihilation of Jews and other groups by the Nazi regime in Germany between 1933 and 1945, which resulted in the murder of approximately six million Jews and five million other individuals. SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022. SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

OREGON

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2020

Oregon (Legislation)

- [Senate Bill 664](#), Requires school districts to provide instruction about Holocaust and genocide. Directs

- Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school districts for instruction
- (1) School districts must provide instruction about the Holocaust and genocide.
 - (2) Instruction required under this section must be designed to:
 - (a) Enable students to evaluate the morality of the Holocaust, genocide and similar acts of mass violence and to reflect on the causes of related historical events;
 - (b) Develop students' respect for cultural diversity and help students gain insight into the importance of the protection of international human rights for all people;
 - (c) Promote students' understanding of how the Holocaust revealed the need for the term "genocide" and led to international legislation that recognized genocide as a crime;
 - (d) Stimulate students' reflection on the roles and responsibilities of citizens in democratic societies to combat misinformation, indifference and discrimination through tools of resistance such as protest, reform and celebration;
 - (e) Provide students with opportunities to contextualize and analyze patterns of human behavior by individuals and groups who belong in one or more categories, including perpetrator, collaborator, bystander, victim and rescuer;
 - (f) Enable students to understand the ramifications of prejudice, racism and stereotyping;
 - (g) Preserve the memories of survivors of genocide and provide opportunities for students to discuss and honor survivors' cultural legacies;
 - (h) Provide students with a foundation for examining the history of discrimination in this state; and
 - (i) Explore the various mechanisms of transitional and restorative justice that help humanity move forward in the aftermath of genocide.
 - (3) The Department of Education shall provide technical assistance to school districts for the purpose of providing instruction required by this section.
 - SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act first applies to the 2020-2021 school year.

PENNSYLVANIA

Intervention: Holocaust education
 Intervention instrument: Legislation
 IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? No
 Year: 2014

Pennsylvania (Legislation)

- **2014 Act 70: PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949 - HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS INSTRUCTION**
 - Section 1554. Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Violations Instruction.--(a) (1) Beginning with school year 2015-2016, each school entity may offer instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations to students. The instruction shall be integrated within the social studies and language arts courses of study required in accordance with State Board of Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into other appropriate courses of study.
 - (2) The Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction permitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall:
 - (i) Be age appropriate.
 - (ii) Be sequential in method of study.
 - (iii) Communicate the connection between national, ethnic, racial or religious intolerance and the subjects described in subsection (b).
 - (iv) Communicate the impact of personal responsibility, civic engagement and societal response within the context of the subjects described in subsection (b).

- (3) School entities may utilize any appropriate public or private materials, personnel and other resources in developing and implementing the program of instruction permitted pursuant to paragraph (1). The Department of Education shall distribute information about appropriate curriculum materials to each school entity. School entities may utilize any curriculum that complies with the requirements of this subsection.
- (b) (1) The Department of Education shall establish curriculum guidelines no later than twelve (12) months after the effective date of this section. The guidelines shall encourage the inclusion of all of the following subjects where appropriate in the instruction:
 - (i) The breadth of the history of the Holocaust, including the Third Reich dictatorship, concentration camp system, persecution of Jews and non-Jews, Jewish and non-Jewish resistance and post-World War II trials.
 - (ii) The definition, history, response and actions taken in the face of genocide, including the Holocaust and any other genocide perpetrated against humanity, including the Rwandan genocide and other genocides committed in Africa, Asia and Europe.
 - (iii) Human rights violations.
- (iv) Antisemitism, racism and the abridgment of civil rights.
- (2) The Department of Education shall work in consultation with organizations and individuals that provide educational expertise and resources related to the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations to develop the curriculum guidelines. The guidelines shall state the minimum amount of instruction necessary to adequately educate students on the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations.
- (c) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Department of Education shall make available, to all school entities, in-service training programs based upon the instruction provided for under subsection (a) and the curriculum guidelines established pursuant to subsection (b).

RHODE ISLAND

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 2021

Rhode Island (Commission)

- [S840](#) Relating to Education - Rhode Island Holocaust and Genocide Education Commission
- This act would create the Holocaust and genocide education commission to:
 - (1) Gather and disseminate Holocaust and genocide information;
 - (2) Review current statewide Holocaust and genocide education programs and initiatives, and partner with the state department of elementary and secondary education to prepare a program;
 - (3) Promote public awareness of issues relating to Holocaust and genocide education;
 - (4) Advise and educate the governor, general assembly, and state departments and agencies regarding the nature, magnitude and priorities of Holocaust and genocide education, and develop policies and programs to address those needs; and
 - (5) Seek opportunities to provide resources for schools to effectively teach about the Holocaust and genocide.
- [Education Resources](#) (under +The Holocaust)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1989

South Carolina (Commission)

- The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust (SCCH) was established in 1989 through a state legislative mandate. It operates in collaborative partnership with the state legislature and the SC Department of Education to promote awareness about the Holocaust and to honor the survivors and concentration camp liberators who call South Carolina home. To this end, the Council supports teacher training programs, special events that discuss Holocaust history, human rights, and genocide, and annual Holocaust commemorations around the state.
- [Teaching resources](#)
- [Grants for educators and organizers](#)

TENNESSEE

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1984

Tennessee (Commission)

- In 1984, the Tennessee state legislature created the Tennessee Holocaust Commission by passing a bill with the purpose of educating others about and commemorating the Holocaust. In 1996, new legislation recreated the commission to recognize its primary role as education and to create a parallel not-for-profit body. This agency's Commissioners, appointed by the governor, function as part of the commission as a whole.
- The Tennessee Holocaust Commission, now one of the most celebrated organizations of its kind in the nation, provides a variety of educational services and opportunities. These frequently include the creation and implementation of resources, workshops, conferences, exhibits, learning and in-service seminars, as well as publications for the educational and general community. Each year, the commission supports annual Day of Remembrance commemorations across the state, including an observance on the Capitol grounds. It has facilitated primary educator learning opportunities for study in Washington D.C. and Europe. Furthermore, it is committed to continuing the growth of Holocaust education throughout the state of Tennessee.
- [Tennessee Standards for Holocaust Education](#)

TEXAS

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 2009, 2021

Texas (Commission)

- Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, formed by [SB 482](#), was established to ensure that resources are available to students, educators, and the general public regarding the Holocaust and other genocides.
- [Online Digital Library for Educators](#), containing materials appropriate for middle school, high school, and college.
- Beginning September 1, 2021, the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission is now the [Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission](#).

UTAH

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? No

Year: 2021

Utah (Legislation)

- [Concurrent Resolution on Holocaust Education](#)
 - This resolution highlights the importance of Holocaust and genocide education and encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to emphasize the importance of this course of study.
 - This resolution: describes the components of Holocaust and genocide education; explains the importance of Holocaust and genocide education for students, schools, and communities; and encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to provide Holocaust and genocide education.

VIRGINIA

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2008

Virginia (Legislation)

- [Chapter 474 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly](#)
 - The Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to distribute a teacher's manual to all school divisions that emphasizes the causes and ramifications of the Holocaust and genocide. Each school division shall provide grade-appropriate portions of the manual to history and literature teachers of these classes.
 - Accordingly, the Virginia Department of Education suggests that school divisions provide grade-appropriate portions of teachers' manuals found at the following sites:
 - Virginia Holocaust Museum: <https://www.vaholocaust.org/resources-for-teachers/>

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov><http://www.ushmm.org/education/foreducators/>; <http://www.doe.virginia.gov><http://www.ushmm.org/genocide/>; and
- Yad Vashem: <https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-materials.html>.

WASHINGTON

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? No

Year: 2019

Washington (Legislation)

- **SB 5612**: Concerning Holocaust Education; **Final Law**
 - Every public middle, junior high, and high school are strongly encouraged to include instruction on the events of the Holocaust, which is defined as the systemic, German state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews and other innocent victims by the Nazi regime and its collaborators between the years 1933-1945. The instruction may also include other examples of genocide and crimes against humanity. In addition to this study being a reaffirmation to never again permit such occurrences, studying this material is intended to examine the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and intolerance and prepare students to be responsible citizens in a pluralistic democracy.

WEST VIRGINIA

Intervention: Commission

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? N/A

Year: 1998

West Virginia (Commission)

- West Virginia Legislature, Article 28: **Commission on Holocaust Education**
 - by executive order No. 2-98, dated April 16, one thousand nine hundred ninety-eight, created and established the West Virginia holocaust commission on education; and
 - (6) That, in furtherance of the intent and purposes of the aforesaid executive order, it is the intent of the Legislature to create a permanent state commission which, as an organized body and on a continuous basis, will survey, design, encourage and promote implementation of holocaust education and awareness programs in West Virginia and will be responsible for organizing and promoting the memorialization of the holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state.
 - (a) The commission shall:
 - (1) Provide, based upon the collective knowledge and experience of its members, assistance and advice to public and private schools, colleges and universities with respect to the implementation of holocaust education and awareness programs;
 - (4) Coordinate events memorializing the holocaust and seek volunteers who are willing and able to participate in commemorative events that will enhance public awareness of the significance of the holocaust; and
 - (5) Prepare annual reports for the Governor and the Legislature regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion of holocaust studies and special programs memorializing the holocaust in educational systems in this state.

WISCONSIN

Intervention: Holocaust education

Intervention instrument: Legislation

IF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION LEGISLATION: MANDATORY? Yes

Year: 2021

Wisconsin (Legislation)

- [2021 Senate Bill 69](#)
- The Holocaust and other genocides; model standards, curricula, and instructional materials.
 - (a) Incorporate the Holocaust, as defined in s. 121.02 (1) (L) 8. a., and other genocides into the model academic standards for social studies.
 - (b) Develop a model curriculum and related instructional materials for pupils in grades 5 to 8 on the Holocaust, as defined in s. 121.02 (1) (L) 8. a., and other genocides.
 - (c) Develop a model curriculum and related instructional materials for pupils in grades 9 to 12 on the Holocaust, as defined in s. 121.02 (1) (L) 8. a., and other genocides.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER STATES?

States with neither Holocaust education guidelines nor Holocaust commission (via legislation or executive/state-level mandate):

- Alaska
- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Vermont
- Wyoming



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