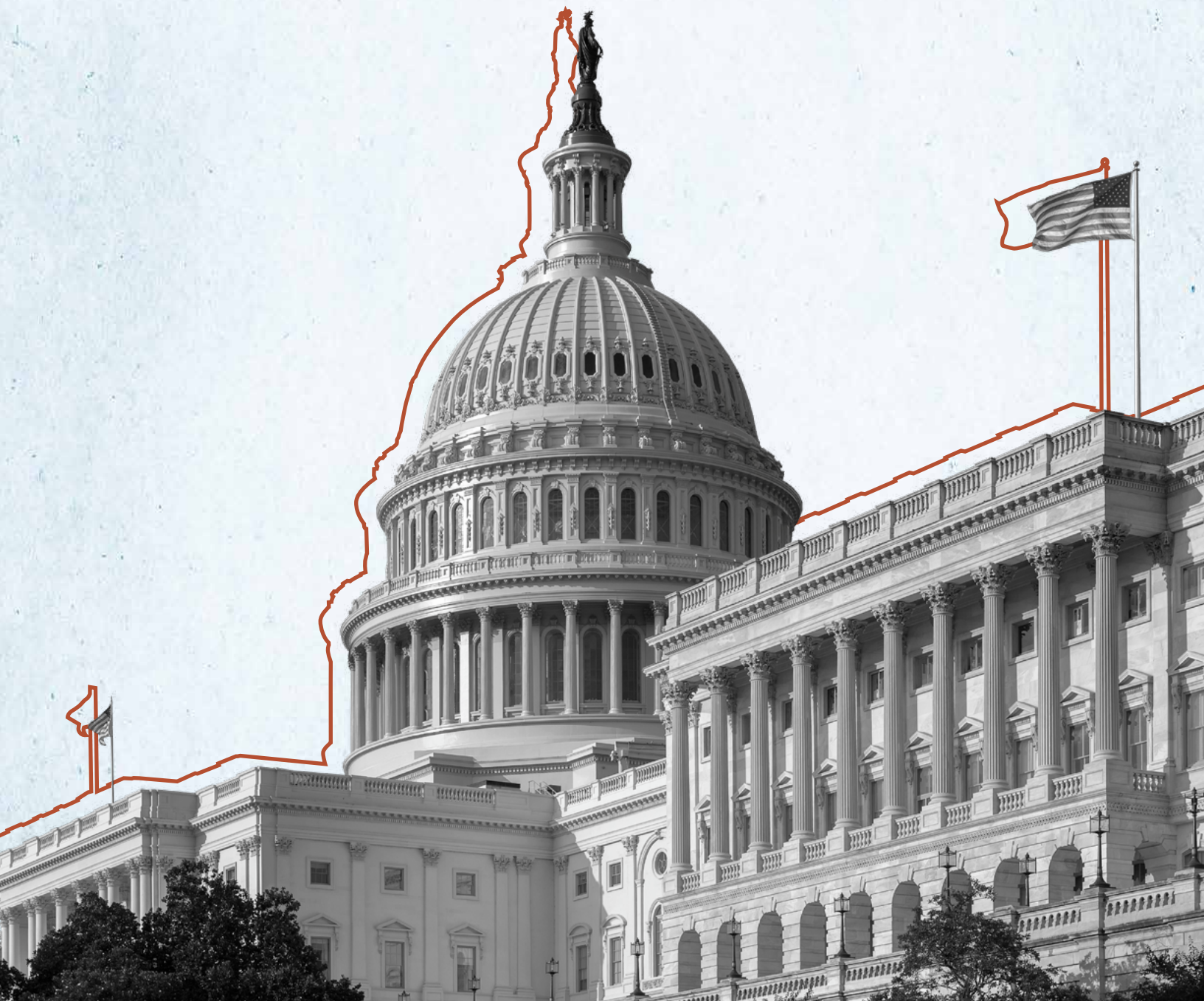


FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Implementing the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism

A Guide for Members of Congress



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Anti-Jewish prejudice is a growing concern on U.S. college campuses and at an increasing number of secondary schools. According to [AJC's State of Antisemitism in America Report 2023](#)¹, for American Jews with current or recent college experience, 25% say they have avoided wearing, carrying or displaying things that identify them as Jewish, and 24% say they have felt uncomfortable or unsafe at a campus event because they are Jewish.

The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism outlines a whole-of-society effort to address anti-Jewish hate. As students return to school this fall, [AJC's Task Force to Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism](#)² offers this guide to highlight ways Members of Congress can work towards implementation of the National Strategy and support Jewish students across the country. Additional recommendations can be found in AJC's [Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America](#)³, a nonpartisan, society-wide guide.

¹[AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2023](https://www.ajc.org/antisemitismreport2023)

²[AJC.org/NationalStrategyNews](https://www.ajc.org/nationalstrategynews)

³[AJC.org/CallToAction](https://www.ajc.org/calltoaction)

Working with the Department of Education

We urge Congress to fully fund the following Department of Education program:

- \$177.6 million for the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). This funding would strengthen OCR's work to counter antisemitism and related forms of discrimination in K-12 and on college campuses. OCR uses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism (IHRA) in investigating cases related to Title VI.

Congress should note pledges made by the Department of Education (ED) in the National Strategy to enhance protections for Jewish students, counter discrimination and bias:

- ED launched its Antisemitism Awareness Campaign in May 2023, to raise awareness among educators, students, parents, and communities about rising antisemitism and provide tools to address it.
- OCR issued a Dear Colleague Letter reminding schools of their legal obligation regarding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and continues to offer assistance in addressing complaints of discrimination.
- ED officials will visit PreK-12 schools and institutions of higher education to identify best practices in countering antisemitism and create and disseminate new related resources.
- ED officials will help schools improve accommodation of religious observances and work with the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to highlight strategies to be more inclusive of Jewish and other religious identities.
- ED will create webinars for public schools on religious accommodation requirements and best practices for addressing needs of students and staff who must be absent from school in order to celebrate religious holidays and/or engage in religious observances.
- ED's OCR will continue to collect data on allegations of harassment or bullying based on religion, as it has since the 2013-14 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). ED will also work on increasing awareness of laws prohibiting antisemitic and other forms of discrimination and ensure individuals and organizations know how to make claims regarding violations of such laws.



Working with Local Communities

The National Strategy also includes action items related to educational institutions that Members of Congress can promote in their local communities. It urges:

- States to consider creating a Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education.
- States, cities, and school districts to expand information, digital, and media literacy education to address online misinformation and disinformation, including related to antisemitism; and libraries and non-profit organizations to develop resources and programming on information, digital, and media literacy to address online misinformation and disinformation, including related to antisemitism.
- Academic and other research institutions:
 - to deepen investments in multidisciplinary research on antisemitism, including scholarship that connects antisemitism with racism, misogyny, and other forms of hate and evaluate promising practices to determine what information, digital, and media literacy strategies effectively help individuals identify online antisemitism and reduce further sharing and spread.
 - to convene forums with community leaders, non-profits, and scholars to discuss antisemitism and its relationship to other forms of hate as well as best practices for countering antisemitism and to create forums for Jewish and non-Jewish community leaders and K-12 teachers to partner with academics on educational resources that teach about antisemitism and other forms of hate.



Working with the Schools and Colleges

The National Strategy also includes action items related to educational institutions that Members of Congress can promote in their local communities. It urges:

- Schools and colleges:
 - to issue clear and unwavering statements condemning all forms of hate, including antisemitism, especially in the wake of antisemitic incidents.
 - to ensure efforts to prevent and address antisemitism are integrated into their DEIA programs, including into mandatory trainings on discrimination and harassment and enhance awareness of religious cultures and practices.
 - to have a clear and transparent mechanism for students to report hate incidents and acts of antisemitism. Schools and colleges should also be transparent about the measures taken in response to such reports. This should include resources for students who have been the victims of intimidation, undue harassment, or violence on the basis of being Jewish or perceived as Jewish.
 - to create committees or task forces to combat hate on campus, including antisemitism, composed of administrators, faculty, and students from diverse ethnic and religious beliefs and backgrounds.
 - to treat antisemitism with the same seriousness as other forms of hate. This includes modeling attention and concern for Jewish students' rights and needs together with those of other groups; explicitly condemning antisemitic incidents; attending Jewish student events and celebrations; and ensuring that cultural and religious sensitivity policies include areas of concern for Jewish students and families.



American Jewish Committee (AJC) is the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people. With headquarters in New York and more than 75 offices, institutes, and international Jewish community partnerships worldwide, AJC's mission is to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel, and to advance human rights and democratic values in the United States and around the world.

Following the historic unveiling of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism by the White House, AJC CEO Ted Deutch announced the creation of the AJC Task Force to Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. AJC's Task Force is designed to ensure the execution of the National Strategy, which includes dozens of AJC's recommendations closely resembling [**AJC's Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America**](#), in a meaningful and timely manner. For more information on AJC's Task Force visit [**AJC.org/NationalStrategyNews**](#).