



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

July 16, 2020

Mr. Howard Libit
Baltimore Jewish Council
5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dear Mr. Libit:

Thank you for reaching out to inquire about the changes to the state social studies frameworks regarding the Holocaust. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) appreciates the continued dialogue regarding Holocaust education in Maryland and I am happy to update you on our progress.

The changes to the state frameworks for high school Modern World History and United States History, outlined below, were made in November 2019.

Framework	Holocaust Specific Objectives
High School Modern World History	Evaluating the causes, course, and consequences of the Holocaust.
High School United States History	Analyzing the origins of the Holocaust and the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped the American response.

These frameworks can be found on the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) website at: <http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/pages/dcaa/social-studies/msss.aspx>.

Although all 24 Local school systems (LSS) already had objectives covering the Holocaust in the curriculum they developed for high school United States and Modern World History, they are working to ensure that their language is aligned to the revised state frameworks. To support this work, the Jewish Museum of Baltimore is presenting to the LSS social studies supervisors at MSDE's December 2020 briefing.

The pandemic has delayed the planned revisions to the grades 6 and 7 frameworks. Initially slated to start in the fall of 2020 the revisions process will now begin in early 2021. The intention within these frameworks, which cover Ancient History through the 1400s, will be to advocate for the addition of an objective(s) regarding the roots of antisemitism that would help students to contextualize the study of the Holocaust when they get to high school.

MSDE appreciates your attention to enhancing Holocaust education for all Maryland students. Please reach out to Mr. Bruce A. Lesh, Director of Social Studies, Science, Environmental Literacy and Disciplinary Literacy (bruce.lesh@maryland.gov) if you have any further questions.

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Senator Shelly Hettleman
Delegate Dana Stein
Delegate Michele Guyton