



**Baltimore Jewish Council**

*An agency of The Associated*

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## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

### Senate Bill 916 - Education - Curriculum Standards - Requirements (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

**March 5, 2025**

### Informational Testimony

**Background:** This legislation seeks to require a number of changes to the Maryland State Department of Education's content standards, curriculum standards, and curriculum resources, focused in the areas of Holocaust education and antisemitism, disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups, and hate. The legislation also would explicitly allow the State Superintendent to withhold funds from any local jurisdiction that fails to update its curriculum in response to changes required by the Maryland State Department of Education. Senate Bill 916 is similar to legislation introduced in the 2024 session, Senate Bill 1058.

**Written Comments:** The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all its agencies and programs, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Baltimore. The BJC strongly agrees with the underlying sentiment of the proposed legislation, that more needs to be done in public and nonpublic schools to teach about racism, prejudice, hatred, and the Holocaust.

In direct response to last year's similar legislation, MSDE established the Social Studies Standards & Frameworks Validation Committee – also known as the Educate to Stop the Hate Committee – to undertake a comprehensive review of Maryland's social studies frameworks for pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Executive Director of the Baltimore Jewish Council served as committee co-chair.

The committee spent months reviewing the frameworks, meeting with key stakeholders, and developing recommended changes – including adding a number of specific places for expanded instructional requirements on the Holocaust and antisemitism. The 30-day public comment period on those recommendations just closed, and it is expected that the Maryland State Board of Education will be considering the recommendations at its meeting later in March. Here is a link to learn more about the changes:

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DCAA/Social-Studies/SFVC.aspx>

**As the committee considers SB916, we hope this information about the social studies frameworks changes already underway will be helpful.**

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*