

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

BILL: Senate Bill 0916- Education - Curriculum Standards - Requirements (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

DATE: March 5, 2025

POSITION: Information

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The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding Senate Bill (SB) 916 – Education - Curriculum Standards - Requirements (Educate to Stop the Hate Act), which requires the MSDE to create standards, update frameworks, create curricular resources, establish an aligned system of assessments, and provide technical assistance to local education agencies (LEAs) on the revision and enhancement of antihate and Holocaust instruction in Maryland’s elementary, middle, and high schools.

MSDE is appreciative of the collaboration with members of the Maryland General Assembly (GA) during the 2024 Maryland Legislative Session to address requirements included in this bill. Stemming from this collaboration, the Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and MSDE established a process for reviewing, revising, and adopting standards, frameworks, and curricular resources on January 23, 2024. Both entities are strident in ensuring that the development of standards, frameworks, and curricular resources is conducted through this process, which includes collaboration between the State Board, MSDE, LEAs, and community members through the convening of a Standards and Frameworks Validation Committee (SFVC).

Guided by this process, SFVCs have and will continue to be convened to review and propose revisions to State Standards and Frameworks. This includes the Social Studies SFVC also known as the Educate to Stop the Hate Committee, which was initiated on June 28, 2024, to review and propose revisions to the current Maryland Social Studies Frameworks. This process aligns with the actions and principles outlined in this legislation. Changes to this established process would be duplicative and alter the timeline in which the standards will be updated, thus impacting the associated alignment of curricular resources implemented in LEAs and requiring substantial efforts to realign them.

The work of the SFVC, along with past collaboration with Maryland community members, has ensured the emphasis of antihate and Holocaust objectives within the State Social Studies Frameworks. In 2019 MSDE conducted a review of the State Social Studies Frameworks for the inclusion of Holocaust objectives. As a result of that review, MSDE revised objectives in the High School United States History and Modern World History State Frameworks with explicit language that detailed the importance of teaching the causes, course, and the consequences of the Holocaust in Modern World History as well as the origins of the Holocaust and the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped the American Response in High School US history. Additionally, in January 2024, the State Board adopted further updates to the 6th and 7th grade State Frameworks. These updates include an explicit examination of the origins of antisemitism in 6th grade and an in-depth study of the Holocaust’s role in the founding of Israel in 7th grade. Following these revisions, MSDE worked in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Jewish Museum of Maryland to provide professional development for LEA staff.

Further, the existing Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.01.06.04 has established regulations that address aspects of the legislation. COMAR 13A.01.06.04 provides requirements for LEAs related to curriculum development and implementation in all contents that are in alignment with the principles of this legislation related to the lens through which curriculum, pedagogy, professional learning, instructional materials, and assessment design are developed.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **SB 916**. Please contact Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D. (Executive Director of Government Affairs) [akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov](mailto:akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov) for any additional information.