



## JEWISH STUDENTS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Resources and Tools to Address Antisemitism, Intolerance and Bias

Updated February 2020

### Statistics and Facts

- **Local Incidents:** <https://www.jweekly.com/2017/05/24/j-special-report-anti-semitism-at-bay-area-schools-showsdramatic-spike/>
- **FBI Hate Crimes in the SF Bay Area:** <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/FBI-Hate-crimes-rose-58-in-San-Francisco-as-14836371.php>
- **ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents 2018:** <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/anti-semitic-incidents-remained-at-near-historic-levels-in-2018-assaults>
- **California Incidents:** [https://www.adl.org/adl-tracker-of-anti-semitic-incidents?field\\_incident\\_location\\_state\\_target\\_id=4784](https://www.adl.org/adl-tracker-of-anti-semitic-incidents?field_incident_location_state_target_id=4784)
- **ADL Global 100 2019 Results:** <https://global100.adl.org/about/2019>
- **AJC 2019 Survey of American Jews on Anti-Semitism in America:** [https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismSurvey2019?utm\\_source=web&utm\\_medium=splash&utm\\_campaign=THSurvey&utm\\_content=2019Survey](https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismSurvey2019?utm_source=web&utm_medium=splash&utm_campaign=THSurvey&utm_content=2019Survey)

### Definitions and Background on Antisemitism

- **Anti-Defamation League:** <https://www.adl.org/anti-Semitism>
- **JCRC:** [https://jcr.org/uploads/Delegitimization\\_of\\_Israel\\_2018.pdf](https://jcr.org/uploads/Delegitimization_of_Israel_2018.pdf)
- **AJC Glossary of Terms:** [https://global.ajc.org/translatehate?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=search&utm\\_content=group1&utm\\_campaign=translatehate&gclid=Cj0KCQiAiNnuBRD3ARIsAM8Kmlt2UQq\\_yZlaXYfK8INeUVdkZhQ59UROOXH4q0liAYXtyf4W5XlfgYyaApEGEALw\\_wcB](https://global.ajc.org/translatehate?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_content=group1&utm_campaign=translatehate&gclid=Cj0KCQiAiNnuBRD3ARIsAM8Kmlt2UQq_yZlaXYfK8INeUVdkZhQ59UROOXH4q0liAYXtyf4W5XlfgYyaApEGEALw_wcB)
- **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:** <https://www.ushmm.org/confront-antisemitism>

### Talking About and Responding to Antisemitism

#### *Resources for Parents and Children*

- **PJ Library:** <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/how-to-talk-to-children-about-anti-semitism>
- **New York Times, How to Talk to Your Children About Charlottesville:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/books/review/children-violence-racism-charlottesville.html>
- **Tablet Magazine:** <https://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/273892/talking-to-kids-about-pittsburgh>
- **Jewish Family and Children's Services:** <https://www.jfcs.org/talking-to-children-about-anti-semitism/>
- **San Francisco Jewish Federation:** <https://jewishfed.org/news/blog/how-talk-your-children-about-tragedy-and-anti-semitism>

### Resources for Teens and Adults

- **Harvard Business Review:** <https://hbr.org/2017/02/how-to-respond-to-an-offensive-comment-at-work>
- **Southern Poverty Law Center:** <https://www.splcenter.org/20150125/speak-responding-everyday-bigotry>
- **NFTY/URJ:** <https://nfty.org/take-action/bullying/>
- **ADL Word to Action:** <https://sanfrancisco.adl.org/initiatives/words-to-actionconfronting-anti-semitism>
- **Reform Judaism Magazine:** <https://reformjudaismmag.org/navigating-antisemitic-encounters-learning-guide>

### Curriculum and Resources for Schools and Teachers

- **JCRC Resources for Addressing anti-Semitism and Bias, Promoting a Positive School Culture:** [https://jcrc.org/uploads/JCRC\\_Resources\\_for\\_Teaching\\_Mutual\\_Respect.pdf](https://jcrc.org/uploads/JCRC_Resources_for_Teaching_Mutual_Respect.pdf)
- **Institute for Curriculum Services:** Provides curricula and professional development to social studies educators with the goal of strengthening the quality of K-12 education about Jews, Judaism and Israel. [www.icsresources.org](http://www.icsresources.org)
- **Facing History and Ourselves:** Engages students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and antisemitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. [www.facinghistory.org](http://www.facinghistory.org)
- **Teaching Tolerance:** Teaching Tolerance provides free resources to educators—teachers, administrators, counselors and other practitioners—who work with children from kindergarten through high school. [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)
- **ADL:** Resources for Educators, Parents & Families on Cyber-bullying, No Place for Hate, A Classroom of Difference, Literature, Lessons Plans and Other Resources. <https://sanfrancisco.adl.org/about/>

### Take Action: Projects and Programs

- **ADL's No Place for Hate:** Works to inspire a national movement led by students and educators who are committed to using the power of positive peer influence to build inclusive and safe schools in which all students can thrive. <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/No-Place-For-Hate-2017-2018-Webpage-Guide.pdf>
- **Beyond Differences:** Inspire students at all middle schools nationwide to end social isolation and create a culture of belonging for everyone. This organization is a student led initiative working to empower students to change and improve the culture of their own school. <https://www.beyonddifferences.org/>
- **Not in Our Schools:** Not in Our School is a program that creates safe, accepting and inclusive school communities. Not In Our School provides training, films, lesson plans and resources that inspire students to take the lead in standing up to bullying and intolerance in their schools. <https://www.niot.org/nios>
- **JFCS Holocaust Center:** High school students have a rare and unique opportunity to study the Holocaust and patterns of genocide through a number of exceptional programs offered by the JFCS Holocaust Center. Students will have the opportunity to learn and earn community services hours. <https://holocaustcenter.jfcs.org/education/high-school-programs/>
- **The Bully Project:** The BULLY Project is the social action campaign inspired by the award-winning film BULLY. It has sparked a national movement to stop bullying that is transforming kids' lives and changing a culture of bullying into one of empathy and action. [http://www.thebullyproject.com/about\\_the\\_bully\\_project](http://www.thebullyproject.com/about_the_bully_project)

### Advocating for Your Child: JCRC Resources

- **Responding to Bias in Your School:** [https://jcrc.org/uploads/Responding\\_to\\_Bias\\_in\\_your\\_School\\_2017.pdf](https://jcrc.org/uploads/Responding_to_Bias_in_your_School_2017.pdf)
- **10 Ways to Advocate:** [https://jcrc.org/uploads/10\\_Ways\\_to\\_Advocate\\_2017.pdf](https://jcrc.org/uploads/10_Ways_to_Advocate_2017.pdf)
- **Winter Holiday Dilemmas:** [https://jcrc.org/uploads/December\\_Dilemma.pdf](https://jcrc.org/uploads/December_Dilemma.pdf)
- **Guidance for Parents:** Jewish Students, Public Schools



## JEWISH STUDENTS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### How JCRC and ICS can help

#### **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)**

JCRC is available as a resource to parents and public schools and is available to support Jewish families in public schools on a range of challenging issues. JCRC:

- Provides public schools with a calendar of religious holiday observances to prevent scheduling conflicts.
- Addresses Anti-Semitic and anti-Israel attacks - both verbal and written – by providing resources, coaching, and strategies for parents and students, and when necessary and appropriate, interventions with school administrators.
- Supports parents engage constructively with school staff as needed regarding problematic texts or literature.
- Provides supplementary educational material and resources on Jewish-related topics including Israel, Judaism and the Holocaust.
- Prepares parents to serve as “Jewish ambassadors”, providing resources and guidance in developing positive relationships with educators, administrators, School Board members and community allies.

JCRC Resources: Includes Jewish holiday calendars, toolkits for Jewish students in public schools and resources addressing Anti-Semitism, bias, curriculum and promoting positive school climate, advocacy strategies, and identifying religious bias. <https://jcrc.org/resources/>

#### **Institute for Curriculum Services**

ICS acts on a macro level to improve the accuracy of K-12 public education on Jews, Judaism, and Israel. ICS:

- Works to strengthen state social studies content standards, corrects and enriches history textbooks, and provides curricular resources and professional development to social studies teachers.
- Serves as a resource to JCRC and other Jewish community organizations nationwide.
- Welcomes opportunities to deliver professional development to Bay Area districts and schools and can customize trainings to meet specific needs.

ICS Resources: Curricular resources, including slide decks, lessons, activities, interactive presentations, and pedagogical strategies for learning about Jewish history, including antisemitism in public education, as well as historical maps, animated videos, primary sources, and professional development opportunities for educators. <https://icsresources.org/>

## What parents can do

- Serve as a “goodwill Jewish ambassador” to schools and administrators. Develop positive, helpful relationships with key figures. Don’t wait until there is a problem or a crisis.
- Share resources that will contribute to a positive school climate. Many principals are eager to have resources that they don’t have to find on their own.
- Share information with your district, principal about the rise of Anti-Semitism, and particularly Bay Area incidents.
- Ask what policies and procedures are in place to respond to Anti-Semitic incidents. (Law enforcement report, documentation, communication plan with families)
- If/when an issue related to curriculum arises in the classroom or at school, follow standard protocol of first speaking with the relevant teacher and assume good intentions. Call JCRC at 415-957-1551 for support.

## What happens if there is an Anti-Semitic incident?

- Make sure that it is documented and reported, both to local law enforcement and the ADL.
- If you discover Anti-Semitic graffiti or posters, take a photo of the scene, then call law enforcement and tell them you need them to come and take an incident report.
- DO report the incident to your district superintendent, you are ensuring that there is a communication trail
- DO report the incident by calling your local ADL office or using ADL’s online incident report page. ADL staff can provide support and advice. Also, ADL tracks Anti-Semitic incidents, including those that occur on campuses. Your report will help ADL keep accurate data and combat Anti-Semitism.

## What to expect as a response to a concern or incident

- The response should be proportionate to the incident. While real and serious, we don’t want to scare children by overreacting.
- Ask the principal to issue a statement against what happened. In most cases, they will do so without being asked. A strong statement that specifically names the action as Anti-Semitism goes a long way toward making it clear that the school will not tolerate acts of hate.
- Don't use hateful language to respond. Your goal should be to show why bias is hurtful, not to even the score. If the administration doesn’t respond exactly the way they should, don’t make matters worse by attacking them.
- Propose options and provide resources for follow-up. This might include ADL training, opportunities for students to take part in Holocaust education, No Place for Hate, Not in Our Town.
- If you think the school/district could benefit from an ICS professional development training, contact ICS at [info@icsresources.org](mailto:info@icsresources.org) and let ICS’s professional trainers contact the school/district to offer ICS’s services directly.
- If you are concerned that the incident was not handled appropriately (dismissive, ignored, minimized) or you would like additional resources, guidance or support, contact the JCRC At 415-957-1551 for assistance.