

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution highlights the importance of Holocaust and genocide education and encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to emphasize the importance of this course of study.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ describes the components of Holocaust and genocide education;
- ▶ explains the importance of Holocaust and genocide education for students, schools, and communities; and
- ▶ encourages the State Board of Education and local education agencies to provide Holocaust and genocide education.

**Special Clauses:**

None

---

---

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, to counteract and defend humanity against unspeakable acts, we must speak of and learn from past atrocities;

WHEREAS, "Holocaust" means the systemic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately 6,000,000 Jews and 5,000,000 other individuals by the Nazi regime and its collaborators;



28 WHEREAS, the term genocide was coined specifically to describe the unfathomable  
29 depth and breadth of atrocities perpetrated during the Holocaust;

30 WHEREAS, it is essential to provide students with knowledge of the Holocaust and  
31 other genocides to help them make informed choices as citizens and to help root out despicable  
32 acts of hatred, anti-Semitism, and other forms of prejudice;

33 WHEREAS, the study of the Holocaust and other genocides within the context of  
34 geography, history, and political systems provides students with essential learning experiences,  
35 helping students to:

36 ▶ understand the root causes, consequences, and ramifications of prejudice,  
37 racism, stereotyping, and discrimination;

38 ▶ confront the issues of moral dilemmas and conflicts of conscience posed by the  
39 Holocaust and other genocides;

40 ▶ learn how the Holocaust contributed to the need for the term "genocide" and led  
41 to international legislation that recognized genocide as a crime; and

42 ▶ contextualize and illuminate patterns of human behavior by individuals and  
43 groups and their choices of roles, including perpetrator, collaborator, bystander,  
44 victim, resister, and rescuer;

45 WHEREAS, the study of the Holocaust and other genocides also sharply illustrates the  
46 responsibilities of citizens in democratic societies to combat misinformation, indifference, and  
47 discrimination through tools of resistance such as protest, reform, and free and fair elections;

48 ~~Ŝ→ [WHEREAS, studying the Holocaust and other genocides helps students learn about~~  
49 ~~transitional and restorative justice, which are powerful tools that help communities and~~  
50 ~~humanity move forward in the aftermath of genocide;] ←Ŝ~~

51 WHEREAS, Holocaust and genocide education encourages students to develop  
52 empathy and reaffirms the commitment of free people to never again allow genocides to occur;

53 WHEREAS, Holocaust education teaches universal lessons including: world history,  
54 fascism, extremism, the fragility of democracy, the history of the Jewish people, human  
55 capacity for the immorality, scapegoating and stereotyping, the role of perpetrators and  
56 bystanders, the importance of empathy, diversity, and efforts toward justice;

57 WHEREAS, Holocaust and genocide education can help nurture and protect democratic  
58 values and institutions;

59 WHEREAS, the study of these topics can lead students to examine what it means to be  
60 a responsible and respectful person and to understand the personal responsibility that all people  
61 have to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens; and

62 WHEREAS, the life lessons that students can learn from the study of the Holocaust and  
63 other genocides are transferable and beneficial in many areas of study, and these life lessons are  
64 central to the State Board of Education's mission and vision of public education:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
66 Governor concurring therein, encourages the State Board of Education to continue its practice  
67 of adopting K-12 social studies standards that include the study of the Holocaust and other  
68 genocides at grade levels appropriate for such study, and in all other subject area standards as  
69 suitable.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every local education agency should include  
71 instruction on the Holocaust - including the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews  
72 and other groups by Nazi Germany and its collaborators - and other genocides for all  
73 elementary and secondary school pupils with age-appropriate materials included in the  
74 curriculum.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage the State  
76 Board of Education and local education agencies to continue providing and promoting  
77 professional learning activities for educators that include evidence-based pedagogical practices  
78 and access to high-quality teacher resources for providing instruction about the Holocaust and  
79 other genocides.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage local  
81 education agencies and educators to use and disseminate instructional best practices and  
82 high-quality curricula of appropriate lengths and complexities - coordinated across grade levels  
83 and subject areas whenever possible - across the state that could form the basis for a Holocaust  
84 and Genocide Studies secondary elective course.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage parents  
86 and families to reinforce the important lessons learned from this study by promoting civic  
87 virtues and beneficial character qualities.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage  
89 community stakeholders, including parents, to continue collaborating with their local K-12

90 education systems to assess their needs for providing instruction on the Holocaust and other  
91 genocides, including: creating an appropriate informational website, promoting appropriate  
92 speakers, developing instructional resources, and conducting a teacher needs assessment.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and Governor encourage  
94 institutions of higher education in the state to continue and expand programming for study,  
95 reflection, remembrance, and action around issues related to the Holocaust and other  
96 genocides.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize the  
98 importance of Holocaust and genocide education in helping the citizens of Utah to unite and to  
99 clearly and forcefully resolve that such atrocities will never be repeated.