

2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Arts Education Requirements	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Antisemitism	2114 Definition: "Discrimination" and Statement of Purpose re: Discrimination	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Tiered Systems of Support
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2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Comments about Antisemitism
Miscellaneous	2114 Definition: "Ethnic Groups"

General Comment: EQS Application to Independent Schools

General Comment

Vermont State Board of Education

DRAFT Public Comment Summary

Rule 2000 - Education Quality Standards

Last Updated: 1/26/24

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Comment Number	Comment Description	Applicable Section	Name of Commenter	Summary of Comment	Specific Change (if offered)	SBE Response
21	Submitted in Writing	General Comment	Davies, Maria (on behalf of Vermont Education Equity Collective)	VEEC hopes the standards are passed. References letter, not attached.		
23	Submitted in Writing	General Comment	Vogel, Jamilah Freya	Supports changes to EQS and stands behind the work of the Act 1 working group. Believes the current draft demonstrates commitment to all students to address current and long-standing disparities. Schools are under pressure in the implementation of equity efforts because of misinformation causing fear of DEI efforts. Advocates for approval of current changes.		
185	Oral Comment 10/3/23	General Comment: Support for EQS	Curry, Liz	Cites specific examples of segregation in Vermont schools. Supports the EQS as a way to personalize the classroom by creating conditions that support each student's learning needs.		
147	Oral Comment 9/14/23	General Comment: Support for the EQS	Lentzner, Addie	Supports the EQS rules. The lack of education to students regarding racism and historically relevant events is unacceptable. Education is the solution to racism in the country. Ethnic studies is proven to increase graduation rates by over 15% as well.		
151	Oral Comment 9/14/23	General Comment: Support for the EQS	Solorzano, Gianni	Racism is a huge issue throughout Vermont schools. Allowing separate rules will lead to two different standards and give privileges to some students over others. Passing the EQS is a step towards supporting all students.		
87	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Cahn-Flores, Ariel	Cites recent personal examples of antisemitism. Identified need for school educators and administrators to have the tools they need to combat antisemitism and racism.		
90	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Doucet, Eliza	Recounts history and values of Jewish people. Cites challenges and horrible experiences of her grandparents and declares continued pride and devotion to heritage. Requests that Ethnic Groups include Jewish Vermonters not just as example of genocide but as those who persevered. Advocates for teaching about the Holocaust alongside teaching about Jews as a people and culture. Promotes teaching children that antisemitism exists and that Jewish people are so much more than a historical horror story.	Define Ethnic Groups as it is defined in Act 1.	

93	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Feinberg, Susan & Barry	Support adopting Rules that include ethnic groups that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide including antisemitism. It would be a serious mistake not to define the Jewish community as an ethnic group. Cite examples of antisemitism in the community. Assert that the legislature intended for the definition to acknowledge the issue. Believes that education will combat the ignorance that is leading to hate and violence.	
96	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Greenberg, Laurie	Legislation requires EQS to include ethnic groups "that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide." Do not eliminate Section B to ensure VT students are educated about the history of racism, antisemitism, bigotry, and gender bias. Textbooks and state standards do not provide comprehensive coverage of slavery, civil rights, holocaust, and other histories of oppression and resistance. History will repeat itself and progress will be lost in advancing equitable policies and rights.	Include words "that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide" (section B) in definition of ethnic groups.
99	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Jenkyn, Lawrence	Legislation requires EQS to include ethnic groups "that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide," as Section B in definition of Ethnic Groups. Do not eliminate Section B to ensure VT students are educated about the history of racism, antisemitism, bigotry, and gender bias.	Include words "that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide" (section B) in definition of ethnic groups.
100	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Kaplan, Deborah	Concerned about eliminating Section B from Ethnic Groups definition. Standards must include in its definition of groups historically subjected to persecution. Antisemitism is on the rise and, along with recent events, support and illustrate the importance of educating children on historical facts of antisemitism.	Include "Part B" in definition of Ethnic Group.
112	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Pinsof-DePillis, Debra Ann	Please include Part B. Include education of all people with histories of genocide, including antisemitism. Education of teachers and students is where we must begin to end hate crimes.	Include "Part B" in definition of Ethnic Group.
114	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Rosenbloom, Jonathan	Urges explicit incorporation of ethnic groups that have historically endured persecution or genocide into the rules. Cites current events and impact of not combatting antisemitism - in VT and worldwide. References WH National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. Also requests curriculum to address issue of antisemitism.	Include words "that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide" in definition of Ethnic Groups.
119	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Vermont Holocaust Memorial	Legislative findings cited increase reports of antisemitism and Islamophobia in Vermont VTHM requests including "groups that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide" in definition of "Ethnic Groups." Only by including will VT students learn the values, customs, contributions, and ongoing struggles of the Jewish people and others similarly situated.	Include words "that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide" in definition of Ethnic Groups.
163	Oral Comment 9/28/23	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Doucet, Emma	Requests that Part B be included and that students are taught Jewish culture alongside tragedy. Cites personal examples of antisemitism. Asserts that Vermonters need to learn more about Judaism and recognize it in communities.	Define Ethnic Groups as it is defined in Act 1.
175	Oral Comment 10/3/23	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Gottsegen, Dan	Opposes the elimination of Part B in Act 1. Cites specific personal examples of antisemitism that their children faced in schools. Asserts that inclusive environments need to include all groups. Cites specific personal examples of antisemitism that other family members have experienced. Asserts that students and faculty are not aware of Jewish history and it is important that this changes.	Define Ethnic Groups as it is defined in Act 1.
16	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Chen, A.	Many concerns of Jewish commenters are already addressed in updated EQS. EQS provides a strong stance against antisemitism based on bullying and harassment in EQS - "Each school shall maintain a safe, accessible .." Appreciates and encourages the studying of genocide which would include the Holocaust - "This requires a critical examination ..." If Jewish people are named as a marginalized group and antisemitism is named a protected type of discrimination then other religions, especially Muslim, should be named. Proud to be Jewish with lineage of those who fight for the freedom of others. Cites Trump era Holocaust Rights Association Definition of antisemitism, declaring it dangerous. Notes Human Rights Watch named Israel as an apartheid state.	
18	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Rotman, Arline	Include antisemitism in the rules for inclusion. Given the tenor of the times and the historical incitement against Jews, don't overlook the need to protect Jewish People.	

36	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Holocaust Education	Steinerman, Deborah (Vermont Holocaust Memorial)	Legislative findings cited increase reports of antisemitism and Islamophobia in Vermont VTHM requests specific inclusion of Holocaust education in standards/	Specifically include Holocaust education in the standards.
37	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Genocide	Windsor County Senators (Senator Dick McCormack, Senator Alison Clarkson, and Senator Rebecca White)	Genocide deserves special attention in the curriculum.	
38	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Alexander, Judy	Cites multiple examples of how current school practices, cultures, and calendars conflict with practice of Judaism. Describes lack of awareness or teaching about Spanish Inquisition and forced conversion to Catholicism. Notes lack of awareness about the Holocaust, pogroms, ghettos, history of State of Israel. With increase in antisemitic incidents, it is important to include Jewish history and experience in the Standards	
39	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Anderson, Carol	No longer believes that one can be anti-Israel without being antisemitic toward American Jews and wishes this to be considered in contemplating curriculum changes.	
40	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Bernat, James and Judith	Restore the curricular subject of antisemitism which remains a chronic problem internationally. The disturbing data on the increase in antisemitism in USA, usually a product of ignorance and superstition, makes this a serious issue with important educational implications.	
41	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Betterman, Ellen	Standards adopted should include curriculum specifically addressing antisemitism.	
42	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Bettmann, Michael	Supports including curriculum addressing antisemitism.	
43	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Blicher, Brooke	Antisemitism continues to exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.
44	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Bornstein, Selma	The rise of antisemitism requires attention. History of genocide and ignorance about history will perpetuate uninformed opinions and intolerance. Future generations must learn from the past to experience the promise of a true democracy.	
45	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Bradford, Jill	Disappointed that antisemitism is removed from scope of rules. Cites regular experience with antisemitism in Vermont and sparse opportunity for VT students to interact with Jewish individuals during school years. Declares that it is imperative that curricula provide information about antisemitism and its impact on society	Keep antisemitism within the scope of curricular changes.
46	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Cahn-Flores, Ariel	Include antisemitism and Jews as an ethnic group in education standards.	
47	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Coen, A	Asks to follow law and legislative intent in defining ethnic group so Vermont students learn about people, values, customs, contributions, and ongoing struggles of those who lost lives and endured persecution rather than just historical statistics.	
48	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Dunne, Gered	Antisemitism continues to exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.

49	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Gottsegen, Nicole Johnson	Supports the goals of 2000. Supports Rules explicitly addressing antisemitism. Cites present day examples of antisemitism and recounts the WWII genocide and lack of US involvement in stopping it because of antisemitism. Must directly teach the history of antisemitism and work to stop it to achieve goals of 2000.	
50	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Greenberg, Laurie	Legislation requires EQS to include curriculum to address "antisemitism." Do not eliminate legislative intent to ensure VT students are educated about the history of racism, antisemitism, bigotry, and gender bias.	
51	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Haigh, Ilene	Require teaching of Jewish Experience as part of curriculum. This is consistent with the White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.	
52	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Jacoby, Nir	Antisemitism continues to be exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.
53	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Jenkyn, Lawrence	Legislation requires EQS to include curriculum to address "antisemitism." Do not eliminate legislative intent to ensure VT students are educated about the history of racism, antisemitism, bigotry, and gender bias.	
54	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Kanell, Beth	Vermont has had Jewish connections since it's founding - particularly in NEK. Few Jews are known to residents and few choose to be known. Cites personal examples of fear of antisemitism and calls on raising awareness and increasing education in curricula, including post 1945, on Jewish history and culture.	
55	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Kaplan, Deborah	Antisemitism is on the rise and, along with recent events, support and illustrate the importance of educating children on historical facts of antisemitism.	
56	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Kramer, Roseanne	Antisemitism continues to be exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.
57	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	LeDrew, Susan	Education should not include only tragic events, but should also include wonderful contributions made by Jews. Cites examples of antisemitism experienced by granddaughter and locally. Students deserve the very best. May be behind peers post high-school because of lack of exposure to other cultures, ethnicities and ideas.	
58	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Litz, Dina	Include antisemitism and the Jewish experience in education standards. Requests that this is prioritized considering recent events.	
59	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Meier, Joslyn	Antisemitism continues to be exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.
60	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Miller, S.	Antisemitism continues to be exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.
61	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Miller, S.	Requests that children have curriculum that includes leaning about the Jewish experience. Cites recent antisemitism in Upper Valley and concerned that it VT students don't learn about Jewish Americans it will only feed into more exclusion, antisemitism, racism, and hate.	

62	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Moritz, Daphne	Describes the nuance in trying to categorize Judaism as a religion in the modern sense. Cites rise in antisemitism in Vermont and historic accounts of antisemitism worldwide. VT students must learn about Jews and Jewish History. The White House has issued the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism which supports increasing awareness and understanding of antisemitism. The Jewish experience can be glossed over or eliminated from curriculum when it is perceived that antisemitism doesn't exist.	
63	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Pinsof-DePillis, Debra Ann	Include education of all people with histories of genocide, including antisemitism. Education is where we must begin to end hate crimes.	
64	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Reimer, Seth	Describes being asked to draw Santa Claus as a child to illustrate how educators, students, and educational systems are oriented to disregard Jewish students. Advocates that this must be changed.	
65	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Rojansky Family	Antisemitism continues to exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.
66	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Rosenbloom, Jonathan	Urges explicit incorporation of ethnic groups that have historically endured persecution or genocide into the rules. Cites current events and impact of not combatting antisemitism - in VT and worldwide. References WH National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. Also requests curriculum to address issue of antisemitism.	
67	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Sobel, Maya	Opposes changing wording of definition of ethnic groups because it would change the trajectory of the education of future generations. Cites personal examples of opportunity to learn and examples of past and present acts of antisemitism.	
68	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Stein, Susanna	Supports new inclusive rules for EQS. Advocates for including Antisemitism in the rules. Cites recent, local examples of antisemitism..	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and groups that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide.
69	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Vogel, Matthew (Individual and as ED of the Hillel at UVM)	US DOE's OCR recently resolved claims of antisemitism at UVM. Supports same definition of Ethnic Groups as in Act 1, which aligns with White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. Cites examples of antisemitism and advocates that K-12 curriculum must be equitable in a way that recognizes people, not just the act of genocide. Supports teaching ethnic studies in a way that includes the teaching of the Jewish people and all the other people historically subjected to persecution or genocide.	
70	Submitted in Writing	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Weiss, Carolyn	Antisemitism continues to be exist and grow in the US and Vermont. Provided examples. VT children should learn about Jewish American history in effort to combat antisemitism, racism, and hate. White House developed strategies to promote increased awareness and understanding of antisemitism.	Specify that curriculum address antisemitism and include the Jewish experience in the United States and around the world.
156	Oral Comment 9/14/23	General Comment: Cultural Studies	Maguire, Erin	Studying the genocide of a culture is different that studying the history and culture of the people.	
158	Oral Comment 9/28/23	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Sobel, Maya	See written comment.	
159	Oral Comment 9/28/23	2120 Curriculum and Instruction: Should Address Antisemitism	Vogel, Matthew	See written comment.	
168	Oral Comment 10/3/23	General Comment: Antisemitism	Felson, Ethan	Cites specific personal examples of antisemetic behavior.	

171	Oral Comment 10/3/23	General comment	Francis, Eli	Supports the updates to the EQS as proposed by the Act One Working Group. Cites specific personal examples of inclusion and exclusion in school settings. Asserts that they have not experienced personal specific examples of ethnic or racial discrimination, but recognizes that it is a significant issue in their district and beyond.	
172	Oral Comment 10/3/23	General Comment: Oppose specific reference to antisemitism	Spector, Jamie	See written comment by "Jewish Vermonters." Gave a personal oral statement separate from the group comment. Asserts that the standards as drafted provide an inclusive, anti-racist, and supportive school environment. States that by not naming any specific group it includes everyone. Opposes creating exceptionalism for discrimination against Jewish people.	
186	Oral Comment 10/3/23	General Comment: Antisemitism	Chen, Alyssa	See written comment.	
193	Oral Comment 10/3/23	General Comment: Personal Experience	Decker, Dana	Cites specific examples of racism and anti-semitism. Supports the EQS.	
31	Submitted in Writing	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Antisemitism	Cahn-Flores, Ariel	Identified need for school educators and administrators to have the tools they need to combat antisemitism and racism.	
32	Submitted in Writing	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Antisemitism	Kanell, Beth	Vermont has had Jewish connections since it's founding - particularly in NEK. Few Jews are known to residents and few choose to be known. Cites personal examples of fear of antisemitism and calls on raising awareness and increasing education among educators, including post 1945, on Jewish history and culture.	
33	Submitted in Writing	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Antisemitism	LeDrew, Susan	Lack of diversity in students and staff is worrisome because students may be behind peers post high-school because of lack of exposure to other cultures, ethnicities and ideas.	
34	Submitted in Writing	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Antisemitism	Pinsof-DePillis, Debra Ann	Include education of all people with histories of genocide, including antisemitism. Education of teachers and students is where we must begin to end hate crimes.	
35	Submitted in Writing	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Antisemitism	Reimer, Seth	Describes being asked to draw Santa Claus as a child to illustrate how educators, students, and educational systems are oriented to disregard Jewish students. Advocates that this must be changed.	
166	Oral Comment 10/3/23	2121 Professional Resources: Educator Support: Antisemitism	Riemer, Seth	See written comment.	
188	oral comment 12.7.23	One implementation Date	Vermont Superintendent Association	Request EQS implementation date of July 1, 2025	
188	Oral Comment 10/3/23	General Comment: Response to Commenters	Garces, Amanda	See written comment	
3	Submitted in Writing	General Comment: Framework	Weisman, Tobie (ED and on behalf of Jewish Communities of Vermont)	Hopes that Framework will encourage a learning environment where youth will be taught about Jewish Americans and encouraged to act on antisemitic hatred. Cites recent examples of antisemitism at UVM, in Burlington, etc. Invokes White House National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism as example to follow. Opposes Framework and wishes to be informed when the matter is taken up.	(Letter with specific objections and changes to Framework included.)