

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to include antisemitism and Jews as an ethnic group in the Vermont curriculum and Vermont State Education Quality Standards. It has come to my attention that The Agency drafting the Rules has sought to eliminate Section B of the definition of ethnic groups, thus eliminating the Jewish people from definition of Ethnic Groups.

Just last week, in the Hartford Vermont School District, both of my kids experienced incidents of anti semitism during school hours and on school property. One of the incidents was a high school student yelling out "I hate Jews" in the classroom.. The individual was sent to the principal's office, and I am unaware of what other consequences occurred or if this was used as a learning opportunity. My other child in the elementary school experienced being singled out for being Jewish by another student in front of peers, and the school counselor was able to work with the students to be compassionate about differences and qualify what racism is and isn't, the counselor also called me personally to relay what happened and how she handled it as a learning opportunity. It is very important for our Vermont educators to have the tools they need to help them combat anti semitism and racism in all of its forms as it is definitely a rising issue in America and is affecting our children, "even in Vermont."

Thank you,
Ariel Cahn-Flores
Hartford, Vermont