

Board Members,

Recent Vermont Legislation requires that Vermont State Education Quality Standards include ethnic groups “that have been historically subject to persecution or genocide” and that the curriculum address “antisemitism.”

This was the language that the Legislature included as section B of the definition of Ethnic Groups.

Do **NOT** eliminate Section B's definition of ethnic groups nor the intent of this Section to insure that Vermont's students are educated about the history of racism, antisemitism, bigotry and gender bias.

*What is at stake? It is a fact that textbooks and state standards fail to provide comprehensive coverage of American slavery, the modern civil rights movement and other histories (holocaust) that involve oppression and resistance. According to a 2015 study by Penn state University, curricula about indigenous histories tend to be white-centric and cover only pre 1900 events. Only 20 states require learning about the Holocaust (according to US Holocaust Memorial Museum). And in 2021 , Illinois became the first state to require the teaching of Asian American history.

What happens when students cannot contextualize an accurate retelling of history? Historians and educators warn us that history will repeat itself. As with previous eras, we are witnessing the regression of equitable policies, a rollback of civil rights and a backlash against people who protest and demand a better society for all!

We have to teach the past to improve the future!

Thank you,

Laurie Greenberg

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