


MEMORANDUM

August 12, 2020

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: STAFF FOLLOW-UP: SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2020, AGENDA ITEM H-11, ADDRESS SCAPEGOATING, STEREOTYPING, ANTISEMITISM, AND ALL FORMS OF HATRED

At the School Board meeting of June 17, 2020, the Board approved Agenda Item H-11, proffered by School Board Member Dr. Martin Karp and co-sponsored by School Board Chair Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, School Board Vice Chair Dr. Steve Gallon III, and School Board Members Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Dr. Lubby Navarro, and Ms. Mari Tere Rojas. This item directed the Superintendent to include the topics of stereotyping, scapegoating, antisemitism, and all forms of hatred in the manner explained herein below: 1) during the review of currently available curriculum-based options that address racism and cultural understanding; 2) if approved, for discussion by the student-led task force established to meet monthly to discuss institutional systemic racism in our society; 3) if approved, in quarterly reports to the school Board issued by a student-led task force addressing racism; 4) in consultation with relevant departments of M-DCPS more fully implement the District-created "Hate Spaces" curriculum and report back with recommendations prior to the opening of the 2020-21 school year; and 5) during the review and exploration of ways that additional resources and strategies may be adopted and implemented to teach and promote racial and social justice, unity, and harmony among students in M-DCPS.

Staff in the Division of Academics has commenced a comprehensive review of available K-12 curriculum and is currently identifying entry points for teachers and students to address issues of racial and cultural understanding and appreciation in the recommended pacing guides across subjects and grade levels. This will also include the identification of topics addressing stereotyping, scapegoating, antisemitism, and all forms of hatred, and related learning opportunities will be highlighted for the 2020-2021 school year. The Department of Social Sciences, in cooperation with the state's Holocaust Education Task Force and teacher graduates from the District's and the University of Miami's Holocaust Education Summer Institute, is creating a teacher toolkit with vetted instructional resources, suggested learning activities, and background information related to issues of stereotyping, scapegoating, antisemitism, and all forms of hatred. Also highlighted in the toolkit are effective instructional practices for teachers to be better equipped to address such sensitive topics with students at all grade levels. This toolkit will be shared with teachers during professional development sessions scheduled throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Additionally, the Department of Social Sciences publishes instructional resources that assist in reducing the negative effects of stereotyping, scapegoating, antisemitism, and

all forms of hatred. “Attachment A” is a chart listing the commemorative dates/months for which these additional instructional resources are available. These resources are updated annually and are made available via the weekly briefing system as well as the District’s employee portal (under “Curriculum Resources” in the “Special Commemorations” tab). Besides emphasizing the effects of stereotyping, scapegoating, antisemitism, and all forms of hatred, these resources also assist the District in meeting the required topics of instruction delineated in Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, and referenced in the M-DCPS Student Progression Plan.

Another learning opportunity and entry point to address these important issues with students, which is new for the 2020-2021 school year, will be during the second week of November (Holocaust Education Week). During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed CS/CS/HB 1213, *Educational Instruction of Historical Events*, which “designates the second week in November as Holocaust Education Week in recognition of the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.” “Attachment B” provides a summary of this new legislation. The Department of Social Sciences, in conjunction with the University of Miami’s Holocaust Education Teacher Institute and the state’s Holocaust Education Task Force, will provide suggested daily activities for teachers to engage in important discussions with their students during Holocaust Education Week.

As also stated in staff’s response to June 2020’s Agenda Item H-9 on Racial and Cultural Understanding and Appreciation Curriculum (M108), a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Student Advocate will be appointed to the Student Government Association’s (SGA) Executive Board for the 2020-2021 school year. The student selected to serve in this position will spearhead student-led efforts and discussions on racial and cultural understanding, as well as stereotyping, scapegoating, antisemitism, and all forms of hatred. This will be a standing agenda item for discussion at each monthly meeting attended by all SGA school-site presidents. Because the SGA organization exists in middle as well as high schools, utilizing this venue ensures the discussion will benefit from the input of a broad cross-section of students. SGA representatives at each school will then be empowered to shape this work at schools throughout the District. Quarterly updates on this work will be provided to the Board by the Student Advisor to the School Board.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Department of Social Sciences worked with documentary filmmaker Mr. Avi Goldwasser and a group of M-DCPS Holocaust Education Institute graduates to edit a student-appropriate version of his documentary “Hate Spaces – The Politics of Intolerance on Campus” and an accompanying study guide. The film and study guide for teachers illuminate and explore the disturbing realities of the rise of antisemitism at colleges and universities across the United States. Due to the very sensitive nature of the film, the resource is only made available to teachers of 11th and 12th grade students once they have participated in a one-day professional development session designed to increase their capacity to address such issues with their students in a safe learning space. In an effort to more fully implement the “Hate Spaces” curriculum, the Department of Social Sciences will collaborate with the Division of Student Services

to include senior high school counselors and College Assistance Program (CAP) advisors in future trainings related to the documentary.

The District continues to explore new resources and strategies to enhance opportunities to promote racial and social justice, unity, and harmony among students in M-DCPS. To that end, we are pleased to announce that Everfi, one of our digital content partners, is expanding its course offerings related to these important topics. New Everfi offerings available this fall will include “Antisemitism Prevention” and “Diversity Foundations,” both developed for senior high school students.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451.

AMC:rcb
M110

Attachments

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent’s Cabinet
Ms. Lisette M. Alves
Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky
School Board Agenda Office

Attachment A



List of Instructional Resources by Month published annually by the Division of Academics, Department of Social Sciences: Teachers may access the Special Commemorative Instructional Resources available for each commemoration by accessing the District's Employee Portal, clicking on the "Curriculum Resources" tab, and selecting the yellow tab titled "Special Commemorative Resources."

Month	Topic/Focus	Month	Topic/Focus
September	American Founder's Month Patriot Day- 9/11 Commemoration September 15-October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month Constitution Day- September 17 Celebrate Freedom Week- last week of September	February	African-American History Month Presidents' Day*
		March	Women's History Month Medal of Honor Day (March 25)
October	Continuation of Hispanic Heritage Month until October 15 Election Resources (during specific years only) LGBTQ+ History Month	April	Holocaust Remembrance Days Financial Literacy Month
November	Native American History Month (includes information on Thanksgiving) * Veterans Day* (accompanied with U.S. Flag Display and Folding Guidelines). NEW FOR 2020-20201 Holocaust Education Week (includes information on Antisemitism).	May	Haitian Heritage Month Jewish American Heritage Month Memorial Day* Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Cuban Independence Day- May 20th
December	Human Rights Day Bill of Rights Day	June	Caribbean American Heritage Month LGBTQ+ Pride Month
January	Martin Luther King Jr. Day* Florida Jewish History Month	Note: The instructional resources available for the dates/months reflected on this chart are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Sciences. For a complete list of required topics of study, please see the District's Student Progression Plan.	

*Indicates a National Holiday when school is not in session.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2020 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Education

CS/CS/HB 1213 — Educational Instruction of Historical Events

by Education Committee; PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; and Reps. Fine, Caruso, and others (CS/CS/SB 1628 by Appropriations Committee; Education Committee; and Senators Book, Hooper, Rader, Berman, Cruz, Stewart, and Rodriguez)

History of the Holocaust

The bill adds the policy, definition, examples, and prevention of anti-Semitism to the required public school instruction regarding the history of the Holocaust. Each school district must annually certify and provide evidence to the Department of Education (department) that instructional requirements concerning the history of the Holocaust are met. The bill requires the department to prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the required instruction, and authorizes the department to seek input from the Commissioner of Education’s Task Force on Holocaust Education or from recognized Holocaust educational organizations. The department may contract with recognized Holocaust educational organizations to develop training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.

The bill designates the second week in November as “Holocaust Education Week” in recognition of the anniversary of Kristallnacht, a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.

1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots

The bill directs the Commissioner of Education’s African American History Task Force to examine ways in which the history of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots (riots) will be included in required instruction on African-American history and submit its recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education by March 1, 2021.

The bill directs the Secretary of State to determine ways in which the Museum of Florida History and other state museums will promote the history of the riots through exhibits and educational programs, and collaborate with the National Museum of African American History and Culture of the Smithsonian Institution to seek inclusion of the history of the riots in the museum’s exhibits.

The bill directs the Secretary of Environmental Protection to assess if any state park or facility will be named in recognition of any victim of the riots. Additionally, the bill encourages district school boards to assess opportunities for naming school facilities in recognition of victims of the riots.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2020.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0