

18A: 35

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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(Holocaust--schools)

**NJSA:** 18A:35

**LAWS OF:** 1994 **CHAPTER:** 13

**BILL NO:** S760

**SPONSOR(S):** Ewing

**DATE INTRODUCED:** March 3, 1994

**COMMITTEE:** **ASSEMBLY:** Education

**SENATE:** Education

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No  
Senate committee  
substitute enacted

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** **ASSEMBLY:** March 28, 1994

**SENATE:** March 15, 1994

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** April 7, 1994

**FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**SPONSOR STATEMENT:** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** Yes

**FISCAL NOTE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**MESSAGE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

See newspaper clippings--attached

KBG:pp

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE, Nos. 760, 621, and 563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED MARCH 10, 1994

Sponsored by Senators EWING, MCGREEVEY and SINAGRA

1 AN ACT regarding genocide education in the public schools and  
2 supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

4

5 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
6 *State of New Jersey:*

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. New Jersey has recently become the focal point of national  
9 attention for the most venomous and vile of ethnic hate speeches.

10 b. There is an inescapable link between violence and vandalism  
11 and ethnic and racial intolerance. The New Jersey Department  
12 of Education itself has formally recognized the existence of the  
13 magnitude of this problem in New Jersey schools by the  
14 formation of a Commissioner's Task Force on Violence and  
15 Vandalism.

16 c. New Jersey is proud of its enormous cultural diversity. The  
17 teaching of tolerance must be made a priority if that cultural  
18 diversity is to remain one of the State's strengths.

19 d. National studies indicate that fewer than 25% of students  
20 have an understanding of organized attempts throughout history  
21 to eliminate various ethnic groups through a systematic program  
22 of mass killing or genocide.

23 e. The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education,  
24 created pursuant to P.L.1991, c.193 (C.18A:4A-1 et seq.), several  
25 years ago expanded its mission to study and recommend  
26 curricular material on a wide range of genocides. The Holocaust  
27 Commission is an ideal agency to recommend curricular materials  
28 to local districts.

29 2. a. Every board of education shall include instruction on the  
30 Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum  
31 of all elementary and secondary school pupils.

32 b. The instruction shall enable pupils to identify and analyze  
33 applicable theories concerning human nature and behavior; to  
34 understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice and  
35 discrimination; and to understand that issues of moral dilemma  
36 and conscience have a profound impact on life. The instruction  
37 shall further emphasize the personal responsibility that each  
38 citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever  
39 it happens.

40 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply  
41 to curriculum offerings in the 1994-95 school year.

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3 Requires every school board to provide instruction on the  
4 Holocaust and genocide for elementary and secondary school  
5 pupils.

SENATE, No. 760

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1994

By Senator EWING

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38 responsibility each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred  
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40 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill requires every school board to include instruction on  
46 genocide in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all  
47 elementary and secondary school pupils. The instruction should

1 enable pupils to analyze applicable theories concerning human  
2 nature, to understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice  
3 and discrimination and that issues of moral dilemma and  
4 conscience have a profound impact on life. In addition, the  
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6 each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and  
7 wherever it happens.

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12 Requires every school board to provide instruction on genocide  
13 for elementary and secondary school pupils.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
STATEMENT TO  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, Nos. 760, 621 and 563**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 21, 1994

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 760, 621 and 563.

This Senate committee substitute requires every school board to include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school pupils. The instruction should enable pupils to analyze applicable theories concerning human nature, to understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice and discrimination and that issues of moral dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on life. In addition, the instruction should emphasize the personal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens.

As reported by committee, the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 760, 621, and 563 is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 859 and 1479.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
STATEMENT TO  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, No. 760, 621, and 563**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 10, 1993

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 760, 621, and 563.

This committee substitute requires every school board to include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school pupils. The instruction should enable pupils to analyze applicable theories concerning human nature, to understand that genocide is a consequence of prejudice and discrimination and that issues of moral dilemma and conscience have a profound impact on life. In addition, the instruction should emphasize the personal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens.

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# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001**  
**Contact:**

CARL GOLDEN  
609-777-2205

**TRENTON, N.J. 08625**

**Release:** IMMEDIATE  
APRIL 7, 1994

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation to require school districts in New Jersey to include in elementary and secondary school curricula instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides.

Whitman signed the bill at a public ceremony which also included a Holocaust commemoration observance in the Statehouse. The bill was sponsored in the Assembly by Speaker Garabed Haytaian, R-Warren, and Assemblymen John Rocco, R-Camden; Rudy Garcia, D-Hudson, and Wayne Bryant, D-Camden. Its Senate sponsors are Sens. John Ewing, R-Somerset; James McGreevey, D-Middlesex, and Jack Sinagra, R-Middlesex.

A COPY OF THE GOVERNOR'S REMARKS IS ATTACHED



GOVERNOR CHRISTIE WHITMAN'S REMARKS  
HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION  
BILL SIGNING  
STATEHOUSE ROTUNDA  
APRIL 7, 1994

Good afternoon.

Thank you, Murray, for your kind introduction. The outstanding work of the Commission on Holocaust Education has laid much of the groundwork for the legislation I am proud to sign today.

Normally, the state should avoid imposing curricular mandates on local school districts.

But these are not normal times. And this is not a normal situation.

Hate speech and hate crimes are on the rise in New Jersey and around the world. Entire peoples find themselves targeted for ridicule, hate, or worse. No one can deny the devastation wrought in Bosnia by a hideous campaign of "ethnic cleansing."

Yet, a half century after the Holocaust, a small band of people is finding an audience for their outrageous claims denying the murder of six million Jews — one million of them children.

Honest people can disagree over a universe of topics. But there aren't two sides to Auschwitz. And what is happening today in Bosnia cannot be denied. Our children and their children need to learn the truth about intolerance -- to know that racial, religious and ethnic hatred can lead to genocide.

Unfortunately, too many of our children are not learning this history. The Commission on Holocaust Education found that the Holocaust and other genocides are not taught or are mentioned only in passing in New Jersey's schools.

That is why I am signing this legislation today. We cannot impress upon our children the value of democracy and tolerance unless we demonstrate the horrors and destruction that come out of tyranny and intolerance.

We also must never forget how fragile our democracy is, and how easily citizens can sign democracy's death warrant. After all, the Nazis came to power in Germany in a democratic election.

Children who are not taught history and the timeless virtue of tolerance can grow up to be seduced to support very bad and dangerous ideas. By the time they realize they've been following Pied Pipers to their own destruction, it's too late.

Educating our children about the Holocaust and other genocides will give New Jersey a tremendous boost in that battle. Teachers will stress the personal responsibility that each of us bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it appears. The Commission has done an especially outstanding job in identifying and gathering the appropriate curricular materials.

I'd also like to take a moment to acknowledge the sponsors of this historic legislation: Senators Jack Ewing, Jim McGreevey, Jack Sinagra, Assemblymen John Rocco, Rudy Garcia and Wayne Bryant, and especially Assembly Speaker Chuck Havtaian, who not only sponsored the legislation in his chamber, but who was largely responsible for seeing it through to today. You are all valuable partners in our mission to teach tolerance throughout New Jersey.

New Jersey has another valuable resource to pursue this education mission --- Holocaust survivors. New Jersey is blessedly rich in them. You have heard from Dr. Vera Goodkin. Shortly, I will have the honor of lighting candles of remembrance with survivors Dr. Goodkin, Margit Feldman, Maria Wismur Koslow, Magda Corda, Edmund S. Palagye, and Murray Pantirer, who was saved by Oskar Schindler.

These men and women remind us that every life is precious. They teach us all that bigotry can destroy all that is good in society.

Today and throughout this week, we honor the memory of the victims of Shoah. Never before had a regime planned and carried out the destruction of an entire people. The best honor the six million who perished by resolving not to be silent or indifferent to the face of hatred.

We must never forget.

Thank you.