



Department of  
Education

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

# Promoting Respect and Addressing Hate Crimes



Schools are safe havens for communities and must be free from discrimination and intolerance of any kind. The recent anti-Semitic events that have taken place across our city and nearby are deeply troubling and will not be tolerated. We must ensure that our schools remain safe, inclusive, and nurturing spaces for all students, staff, and families. It is our job as educators to create thoughtful, productive citizens who understand the value of living in a diverse and accepting society.

The recent anti-Semitic events in New York City reflect behaviors that have no place in our schools. As educators, part of our responsibility requires leading thoughtful conversations with students and staff about how to promote respect and address related negative behaviors. Although these conversations can be difficult, it is imperative to talk about prejudice in all its forms in order to educate our school communities. In addition, it is important to incorporate student voice and meaningful dialogue, and create opportunities for students to share their beliefs and feelings. Students can discuss what discrimination and religious intolerance might look like in a school and collectively explore the positive actions they can take to promote diversity. Schools should designate a safe place where students can go if they are anxious or upset, as so many of us are, by the hate and violence in our society. All students should have access to school-based staff (i.e. RFA liaison, guidance counselor, teacher, etc.) who they can turn to and discuss their concerns.

To help you as school communities plan for these conversations, the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) has prepared a list of resources that you may use. These resources are organized by audience and grade level (where applicable).

## RESOURCES AND LESSONS FOR EDUCATORS:

[Teaching Tolerance](#): Teaching Tolerance provides free resources to educators—teachers, administrators, counselors, and other practitioners—who work with children from kindergarten through high school. These materials can be used to supplement existing curriculum, to inform practices, and to create civil and inclusive school communities where children are respected, valued, and welcomed participants.

1. [Grades K-2](#)
2. [Grades 3-5](#)
3. [Grades 6-8](#)
4. [Grades 9-12](#)

[Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\)](#): ADL is a leading anti-hate organization. Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of anti-Semitism and bigotry, its timeless mission is to protect the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all. ADL Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of hate with the same vigor and passion. ADL is a global leader in exposing extremism and delivering anti-bias education and is a leading organization in training law enforcement. ADL is the first call when acts of anti-Semitism occur. ADL's goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination, or hate.

1. [Preschool](#)
2. [Grades K-5](#)
3. [Grades 6-8](#)
4. [Grades 9-12](#)

ADL along with its partners, the USC Shoah Foundation and Yad Vashem, provide "[Echoes and Reflections](#)," Holocaust education materials to empower middle and high school educators with dynamic classroom materials and professional development.

[Facing History and Ourselves](#): Facing our collective history and how it informs our attitudes and behaviors allows us to choose a world of equity and justice. Facing History's resources address racism, anti-Semitism, and prejudice at pivotal moments in history and help students connect choices made in the past to those they will confront in their own lives. Through their partnership with educators around the world, Facing History and Ourselves reaches millions of students in thousands of classrooms every year. Facing History and Ourselves offers resources for [grades 6-12](#).



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[Museum of Jewish Heritage](#): The Museum of Jewish Heritage provides a free Holocaust Curriculum, developed with the support of the New York City Department of Education, for middle and high school students and their educators. The curriculum is an innovative teaching resource featuring lesson plans, primary sources, and other resources to educate students about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

[The Tanenbaum Center](#): The Tanenbaum Center is non-sectarian nonprofit that promotes mutual respect with practical programs that bridge religious difference and combat prejudice in schools, workplaces, health care settings and areas of armed conflict. Tanenbaum designs trainings and educational resources to change the way people treat one another and to celebrate the richness of our country's diversity. Tanenbaum is engaging on a series of resources ([fact sheets](#), [video interviews](#), and [questions for conversation](#)) on the rise of anti-Semitism and actions that people can take to learn about and take action to combat the problem.

NYCDOE K-11 Passport to Social Studies (available on [www.WeTeachNYC.org](http://www.WeTeachNYC.org)): The Passport to Social Studies Curriculum was created by the New York City Department of Education to address the standards and learning expectations of social studies for New York State. In developing an extensive and coherent array of resources, one of the most common themes through all the grades is promoting tolerance and acceptance of all people and acknowledging when and where in the past that has not happened.

## RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES:

- [Teaching Tolerance](#): Offers webinars with guidance and best practices, from their highly experienced teaching and learning specialists and from other educators in the Teaching Tolerance community.
- [Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\)](#): Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events: Anti-Semitism Today.
- [Challenging Biased Language \(from the ADL\)](#): Strategies and resources for everyone to help challenge bigoted and offensive remarks to ensure dignity and respect for all people.
- [Coalition for Asian American Children and Families \(CACF\)](#): Educate Asian Pacific American parents in their preferred languages on their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities to attain services within the school system.
- [Muslim Community Network](#): Develops the capacity of Muslim New Yorkers and their allies to fully participate in the social and political landscape of New York City.
- [Sikh Coalition](#): A community-based organization that works towards the realization of civil and human rights for all people.
- [Unity Productions Foundation \(UPF\)](#): UPF can work with Islamic centers, Mosques, and even educational institutions to host screenings and events dedicated to fighting Islamophobia.
- Speak Up: [Responding to Everyday Bigotry](#)
- [Advocates for Youth \(AFY\)](#)
- [Parents, Families, Friends, and Allies of Lesbians and Gays \(PFLAG\)](#)
- [The Trevor Project: Education and Resources for Adults](#)
- [NYCDOE Respect for All](#): Provides anti-bullying and anti-discrimination policies and resources

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For questions on educational resources and supports on hate crimes, contact [RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov). For questions and resources on hate crimes in general, contact NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes at [OPHC@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:OPHC@cityhall.nyc.gov).

