



Bolstering Holocaust and Genocide Education for Washington Students Statewide

2023–25 Biennial Operating Budget Decision Package

Recommendation Summary

The 2019 Legislature recognized the importance of Holocaust and genocide studies as a part of middle and high school education ([RCW 28A.300.115](#)). Through OSPI's efforts to date, around 38% of Washington middle and high schools have access to enhanced Holocaust and genocide studies educational programming. However, with current funding, the program has limited reach across the state, and limited potential to provide resources and support to school districts, educators, and students, particularly in Eastern Washington. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) requests \$1.85 million in the 2023–25 biennium to expand resources and professional learning opportunities for educators across the state to teach Holocaust studies.

Fiscal Details (Funding, FTEs, Revenue, Objects)

Operating Expenditures	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Fund 001-1	\$899,000	\$952,000	\$1,063,000	\$1,139,000
Total Expenditures	\$899,000	\$952,000	\$1,063,000	\$1,139,000
Biennial Totals	\$1,851,000		\$2,202,000	
Staffing	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average Annual	0.0		0.0	
Revenue	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Fund State - 01	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Biennial Totals	\$0		\$0	
Object of Expenditure	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Obj. C	\$899,000	\$952,000	\$1,063,000	\$1,139,000

Package Description

What is the problem, opportunity, or priority you are addressing with the request?

Holocaust education is history, literature, social studies, psychology, art, and so much more. By studying the Holocaust, students learn the importance of speaking out against bigotry and indifference, promoting equity, and taking action. Studies show that Holocaust education both improves students' critical thinking skills and encourages "upstander" behavior, which is the willingness to act upon civic awareness and confront hatred in all its forms. Beginning September 1, 2020, middle, junior high, and high schools that teach about the Holocaust must follow [Holocaust education "best practices,"](#) according to RCW 28A.300.115. The best practices, developed by the Holocaust Center for Humanity (HCH) on behalf of OSPI, are designed for educators regardless of experience and content knowledge. These materials adhere to the requisite guidelines for teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide, with options for both in-person and remote instruction.

Using dedicated state funds, the Holocaust Center for Humanity has been able to grow the number of school districts served. Prior to state funding, the organization was able to reach 82 school districts, comprising about 25% of Washington's 319 public school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools. In 2021–22, that number increased to 122 districts (38% of total districts) who have accessed the HCH's enhanced Holocaust and genocide studies educational programming. However, even with the current funding, the program has limited reach across the state, and limited potential to provide resources and support to districts, educators, and students, particularly in Eastern Washington. This proposal is for \$1.85 million in the 2023–25 biennium to expand resources and professional learning opportunities for educators across the state to teach Holocaust studies.

What is your proposed solution?

To further capitalize on the state's investment in K–12 Holocaust education and the success of current efforts, this proposal will provide funding to develop more robust programs and resources for districts, expand service to half of all Washington middle and high schools, provide professional learning opportunities to educators across K–12, and ensure eastside districts have access to a local support person. This work is currently done in collaboration through a contract with the Holocaust Center for Humanity, an organization that gears 95% of its offerings directly toward students and educators.

What are you purchasing and how does it solve the problem?

Funding will directly support OSPI's ability to provide or contract for:

1. New and updated educational resources to reach 50% of Washington middle and high school classrooms.
2. Professional development opportunities for educators teaching about the Holocaust and genocide, including but not limited to those teaching in the middle and high school classrooms noted in item 2.
3. A summer leadership program for students.
4. Program evaluation and reporting abilities.

5. Administrative costs of the programs above, including in-person eastside district support located in Spokane.
6. A statewide consortium of experts and educators that will periodically review the state of Holocaust and genocide education in Washington.
7. Marketing of programming during Genocide Awareness Month.

What alternatives did you explore and why was this option chosen?

The state could invest in a team or department at OSPI to develop Holocaust and genocide resources and provide educational opportunities to students, however, such curriculum-focused work falls outside the agency's current scope. The state's money is better and more efficiently spent to support OSPI's investment in non-profit and community-based organizations that have the experience and access to local and national research and scholarship to develop and support effective, age-appropriate, and interactive education programming and professional learning opportunities.

Performance Measures

Performance outcomes:

More robust Holocaust and genocide education will reach half of all Washington middle and high school classrooms, and the educators that serve those students will themselves be served and supported through professional development. This expansion will double the number of classrooms currently served. Educators will have access to new and revised learning materials, field trips, and engagement opportunities for their students. Eastside districts will have access to on-the-ground supports currently available to Puget Sound area districts.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion or alteration of a current program or service:

This proposal represents an expansion of a current program launched during implementation of Senate Bill 5612, passed in 2019 ([RCW 28A.300.115](#)).

The 2020 Legislature appropriated \$183,000 for the 2019–21 biennium for OSPI to contract with a local organization to develop Holocaust education. The funding ended at the conclusion of fiscal year 2021. To date, the work serves 25% of middle school and high school classrooms in Washington state, and this request will build on the previous work by creating a more robust Holocaust education and genocide studies program with a wider reach.

Detailed assumptions and calculations:

This proposal requests \$899,000 to support Holocaust education in fiscal year 2024. There will be a continued annual increase based on inflation and launching of programs moving into fiscal years 2025–27.

Please see the attached spreadsheet, *Holocaust Education DP Attachment 1*, for detailed cost assumptions.

Workforce assumptions:

N/A

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state?

Ensuring Washington students have a strong foundation in the Holocaust and genocide studies serves members of the Jewish community and other groups who have experienced state-sanctioned violence and hate. Eastern Washington will also see specific benefit from this proposal as there will be in-person support based in Spokane. At the forefront of every program, policy, and decision, OSPI actively focuses on ensuring all students have access to the instruction and support they need to succeed in our schools. OSPI regularly engages with a wide array of partners and stakeholders to continuously connect with students, families, and community representatives as partners in decision-making. OSPI facilitates and participates in a significant range of committees and workgroups, regularly engaging with a variety of stakeholders to ensure voices are heard and ideas are incorporated.

By providing an increased number of Washington K–12 students with robust Holocaust and genocide education developed and supported by experts, this proposal supports empathy and understanding among our student body and citizenry around the impacts and repercussions of historical and current prejudice and hatred in all its forms. By funding a Spokane-area presence, this request ensures that both east and westside districts have equal access to on-the-ground support.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic framework:

This proposal supports OSPI's Strategic Goal #2: Rigorous Learner-Centered Options in Every Community, and OSPI's Strategic Goal #3: A Diverse, Inclusive, and Highly Skilled Workforce.

Other Collateral Connections

Intergovernmental:

None.

Stakeholder response:

This proposal is supported by the Holocaust Center for Humanity.

Legal or administrative mandates:

None.

Changes from current law:

None.

State workforce impacts:

None.

State facilities impacts:

None.

Puget Sound recovery:

None.

Other Documents

Reference documents:

- [Holocaust Center for Humanity - Home \(holocaustcenterseattle.org\)](https://holocaustcenterseattle.org/)
- Holocaust Education DP Attachment 1 (attachment)