



Report to the Legislature on Genocide Education Programs: FY2023

Through state budget line item 1595-0116, the Genocide Education Trust Fund promotes the instruction of middle and high school students on the history of genocide.

June 2025

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Patrick Tutwiler, Interim Commissioner

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June 4, 2025

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit this Report to the Legislature: *Genocide Education Programming: FY2023*. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's genocide education grant program is based on [Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021](#), *An act concerning genocide education*, which directs the Department to establish a grant program to support instruction on the history of genocide at the middle and high school levels.

Chapter 98 further stipulates:

"...the commissioner shall provide a report on the progress of genocide education programs in public schools and school districts to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on education. The report shall provide a description of the manner in which grantees...are offering genocide instruction including: (i) the number of hours of instruction offered; (ii) the grade levels at which such instruction is offered; and (iii) the title and description of the course in which such instruction is integrated."

During FY2023, the Department offered the inaugural Genocide Education Grant (Fund Code 215), which provided 39 Local Education Agencies with the funds to expand and deepen their instruction in the history and patterns of genocide. During the grant application process, we surveyed prospective grantees about their genocide education offerings and have summarized our findings in this report. In future years, we will have updated information regarding changes in grantees' offerings as a result of grant funding.

Sincerely,

Patrick Tutwiler

Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) respectfully submits this Report to the Legislature: *Genocide Education Programs: FY2023*, pursuant to Section 3 of [Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021](#), which stipulates:

“Annually, not later than October 1, the commissioner shall provide a report on the progress of genocide education programs in public schools and school districts to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on education. The report shall provide a description of the manner in which grantees under subsection (e) of section 2MMMM of chapter 29 are offering genocide instruction including: (i) the number of hours of instruction offered; (ii) the grade levels at which such instruction is offered; and (iii) the title and description of the course in which such instruction is integrated.”

During FY2023, the Department offered the inaugural Genocide Education Grant. This grant provided 39 local education agencies (LEAs) with the funds to expand and deepen their instruction in the history and patterns of genocide.

In making awards, the Department prioritized proposals that:

- included meaningful learning experiences that are well-integrated into existing instruction;
- sought to increase equitable access to high-quality genocide education for all students;
- had the potential for sustainable, long-term impact as opposed to “one-off” activities; and
- included opportunities to work in partnership with relevant organizations and/or engage local community members.

Competitive priority in the scoring process was also given to:

- LEAs with at least one school identified as requiring assistance according to the state accountability system;
- LEAs with a student population in which greater than 40% are designated as low-income; and
- LEAs who do not already have a well-established genocide education program.

A total of \$1,193,400 in grants were awarded in FY2023. Individual awards ranged from \$6,100 to \$60,000, with an average of \$32,389. Due to the timing of state appropriations, we were unable to offer the grant until midway through the school year and thus gave LEAs the option to use awarded funds across both FY2023 and FY2024.

Summary of Genocide Education Programming – FY2023

This report is intended to provide a description of the manner in which the 39 Genocide Education Grant grantees are offering genocide instruction, including:

- the number of hours of instruction offered,
- the grade levels at which such instruction is offered,
- the title and description of the course in which such instruction is integrated.

The above information was requested by the Department of all grant recipients. While all grantees provided information regarding the grade levels and courses within which instruction is offered, no district provided information regarding the number of hours of instruction.

Given that most grantees have only partially completed their grant activities at this time, the data presented in this report represents genocide instruction prior to grant activities. We expect to be able to present data for grantees regarding genocide instruction following grant activities in our FY2024 report.

Data Regarding Genocide Instruction Amongst Grantees

Grade Levels

LEAs offered instruction in genocide education across all secondary grade levels, with the most frequent instruction occurring in 10th and 11th grades. Below is a table showing instruction at each grade level by frequency across the pool of grantees. Note that some respondents did not specify the grade levels at which courses were offered.

N=39

Grade Level	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Number of Grantees Reporting Instruction at this Grade Level	5	9	10	10	17	18	16

Courses and Topics of Instruction

LEAs offered instruction in genocide education across a variety of courses, including both required and elective courses. Twenty-seven grantees reported including topics of genocide within mandatory courses in history, social studies, and English Language Arts. Of LEAs that offered instruction in required courses aligned to the 2018 History and Social

Science Framework, instruction most frequently occurred in World History I and II courses, as well as in US History II. Additional required course titles mentioned included US History I, ELA 8, ELA 9, World Geography and Ancient Civilizations I and II, and Civics.

Fourteen grantees reported offering genocide education-specific electives and an additional four grantees reported offering elective courses that include topics of genocide. Seven grantees reported offering an elective entitled “Facing History: The Holocaust and Human Behavior.” Additional elective course titles included Modern Conflict, Indigenous Peoples, World Studies, World War II Stories, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, The Third Reich: the Rise and Fall of Nazism, Our Story: a Social History of the US, Dictators and Disasters, Government and Politics, Modern World in the 20th Century, Untold History, and America at War. Several districts reported incorporating instruction on genocide into AP US History and AP World History courses.

Within these courses, LEAs referenced the teaching of a variety of specific genocides. The most common genocides taught included the Holocaust (mentioned by 28 LEAs), the Armenian genocide (11 LEAs), Rwandan genocide (nine LEAs), and the Holodomor/Ukrainian Famine (six LEAs). Other LEAs reported teaching about topics of genocide in connection to Bosnia, Kosovo, Sudan, indigenous peoples of North America, Cambodia, the Congo, American slavery, and the Uighurs in China.

Seven grantees report that literature related to topics of genocide is included in their curriculum. Five grantees report having invited guest speakers to discuss topics of genocide with their students and one grantee reports taking students on a genocide-education related field trip.

Summary

This year, educators across Massachusetts are working to expand and deepen their instruction surrounding the history and patterns of genocide. With this report, we provide baseline data regarding grantees’ instruction prior to grant activities. We look forward to sharing additional data regarding the impact of grant activities on genocide instruction in our Fall 2024 report.

Appendix A: Genocide Education Grant Recipients, Awards Across FY2023 and FY2024 (FC 215)

RECIPIENTS	AMOUNTS
Andover	\$40,000
Barnstable	\$10,000
Bellingham	\$20,910
Beverly	\$40,000
Boston	\$60,000
Danvers	\$20,000
Essex North Shore	\$40,000
Fall River	\$60,000
Franklin	\$31,320
Hadley	\$7,275
Haverhill	\$60,000
Hingham	\$6,100
Lynn	\$60,000
Lynnfield	\$40,000
Malden	\$55,490
Map Academy	\$20,000
Masconomet	\$20,000
Melrose/Woburn	\$40,000
Methuen	\$18,725
Nashoba	\$19,500
New Heights Charter	\$20,000
Norfolk County	\$20,000
North Middlesex	\$40,000
Northborough/Southborough	\$31,464
Northborough-Southborough Regional School District	\$24,500
Peabody	\$60,000
Provincetown	\$9,000
Randolph	\$28,100
South Shore Charter	\$32,000
Southeast Regional Charter	\$39,848
Shawsheen Valley Technical High School	\$18,140
Somerville	\$28,735
Springfield	\$33,887
Taunton	\$25,216
Wareham	\$40,000
Westport	\$21,070
Worcester	\$57,120
TOTAL STATE FUNDS	\$1,193,400

