



## Report to the Legislature on the Genocide Education Trust Fund: FY2023

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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 Trust Fund: FY2023*. The Genocide Education Trust Fund was established by [Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021](#) for the purposes of educating middle and high school students on the history of genocide and to assist in promoting the teaching of human rights issues in all public schools and school districts, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide.

This report is pursuant to Section 1(f) of Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021, which stipulates:

*“...the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall report to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on education and the house and senate committees on ways and means on the fund’s activities. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the source and amount of funds received; (ii) the expenditures made from the fund and the purposes of such expenditures; (iii) any grants provided to relevant community stakeholders and other stakeholder organizations; (iv) anticipated revenue and expenditure projections for the next fiscal year; (v) the number of schools and school districts that have used the fund to implement a new program or enhance or maintain current programming; and (vi) the number of schools and school districts that applied for, but were not granted, funding. The report shall be publicly available on the department’s website.”*

During FY2023, the Department offered the inaugural Genocide Education Grant, which provided 39 Local Education Agencies with the funds to expand and deepen their instruction in the history and patterns of genocide.

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 Trust Fund: FY2023, pursuant to Section 1(f) Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021, which stipulates:

“There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Genocide Education Trust Fund for the purpose of educating middle and high school students on the history of genocide...the commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall report to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on education and the house and senate committees on ways and means on the fund’s activities.”

The Genocide Education Trust Fund is intended to support the mandate laid out in Chapter 98 which strengthens instruction on the history of genocide for middle and high school students. More specifically, Chapter 98 requires that every school district, for the purpose of educating middle and high school students, provide instruction on the history of genocide consistent with the content standards articulated in the History/Social Science Curriculum Framework.

In FY2023, the state legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for the Genocide Education Trust to strengthen instruction in the history and patterns of genocide. Per Chapter 98, the Genocide Education Trust Fund may be used:

- to develop curricular materials detailing the underlying causes, international reaction, progression and aftermath of genocide; and
- to provide professional development training, including the provision of trainings, seminars, conferences and materials, for educators to use in the teaching of genocide.

The Trust Fund may also be used for other purposes related to instructing middle and high school students on the history of genocide, as long as at least 50 percent of the funds expended annually are allocated to public schools or school districts.

During FY2023, the Trust Fund was used to offer the inaugural Genocide Education Grant. This grant provided 39 local education agencies with the funds to expand and deepen their instruction in the history and patterns of genocide. 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 divide their funds between FY2023 and FY2024 to provide recipients with flexibility that would help them meet their goals. As such, the expenditures noted in this report represent only a portion of the overall funds that were awarded.

# Summary of Major Trust Fund Revenue and Expenditures

Per Chapter 98, this section includes a description of:

- the source and amount of funds received in FY2023;
- the expenditures made from the fund in FY2023 and the purposes of such expenditures;
- any grants provided to relevant community stakeholders and other stakeholder organizations in FY2023, including:
- the number of schools and school districts that have used the fund to implement a new program or enhance or maintain current programming in FY2023;
- the number of schools and school districts that applied for, but were not granted, funding in FY2023; and
- anticipated revenue and expenditure projections for FY2024.

## FY2023 Funds Received

In its FY2023 budget, the state appropriated **\$1,500,000** for the Genocide Education Trust Fund. No other funds were received by the Genocide Education Trust Fund in this year.

## FY2023 Expenditures

In FY2023, the Department used the Civics Project Trust Fund to provide direct grant awards to local education agencies; these awards totaled \$1,193,400. LEAs were given the option to split their funds across FY2023 and FY2024. Thus, only a portion of these awards were expended in FY2023.

A total of **\$399,321** in grant funding was expended in FY2023.

## FY2024 Revenue and Expenditure Projections

In its FY2024 budget, the state appropriated **\$2 million** to the Genocide Education Trust Fund.

Significant spending through FY2024 included additional direct grant awards to local education agencies as well as additional projects focused on grant evaluation. The Department also conducted a landscape review of genocide education across the state in order to inform future work. FY24 expenditures are listed below. The forthcoming FY24 report will include anticipated FY25 expenses as well as any implications of the landscape review.

	<b>Expenditures</b>
<b>Grants to Public Entities</b>	<b>\$762,853</b>
Genocide Education Grant (FC 215/215a)	\$835,861
<i>Returned funds from grantees</i>	( <i>\$73,278</i> )
<b>Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$151,711</b>
Genocide Education Landscape Evaluation & Grant Reporting	\$114,419
Curriculum Review	\$37,292
<b>Total FY2024 Expenditures</b>	<b>\$914,294</b>

## Detailed Report on FY2023 Trust Fund Spending

### FC215: Genocide Education Grant

Massachusetts local education agencies (LEAs) were eligible to apply for funding in FY2023, with awardees having the option to divide their funds between FY2023 and FY2024. Those recommended for funding most closely met the criteria outlined in [the Funding Opportunity RFP document](#). Thirty-seven LEAs or partnerships of LEAs were ultimately funded through this grant opportunity, which benefitted a total of 39 LEAs. One proposal was not funded due to not meeting the requirements of the RFP.

The grant was intended to support LEAs to strengthen instruction in the history and patterns of genocide. Priority was given to LEAs with schools identified as requiring assistance according to the state accountability system and/or where greater than 40 percent of the student population was designated as low-income; priority was also given to proposals that came from LEAs that did not have a pre-existing genocide education program. Grant applications were also prioritized based on:

1. **Aligned, meaningful learning opportunities:** Proposals that aligned materials, curriculum, professional development, and/or experiential learning opportunities to the History and Social Science Framework and the goals outlined in Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021, An act concerning genocide education. Meaningful learning experiences that were well-integrated into existing instruction were prioritized.
2. **Equity:** Proposals that increased equitable access to high-quality genocide education for all students were preferred.
3. **Sustainability:** Proposals that led to sustainable, long-term impact were preferred over “one-off” opportunities.

4. **Partnership:** Proposals were preferred that included opportunities to work in partnership with relevant organizations and/or engage local community members.

Ultimately, the funded projects included a variety of activities such as partnering with external organizations to conduct professional development for teachers, supporting teams of history teachers in incorporating high-quality instruction on genocide into their existing curriculum, and taking field trips to relevant destinations. \$1,193,400 in grants were awarded in Fall 2022, with **\$399,321** of that total amount spent in FY2023. LEAs utilized remaining funds in FY2024. A list of recipients can be found in Appendix A.

## Looking Ahead: FY2024 Projects

Looking into FY2024, the Genocide Education Trust Fund will support a new landscape review of genocide education across the state which will allow the Department to better understand and respond to the needs of educators and students in developing supports for genocide education. Additionally, we will continue to offer a significant amount of grant funding directly to districts to support their strengthening of instruction in the history and patterns of genocide.

## Summary

Through its work in FY2023, the Department has leveraged the Genocide Education Trust Fund to create new opportunities for teachers and students to learn vitally important history that will support their development as ethical, informed young people with the knowledge and frameworks to confront injustices and make moral choices.