



## Report to the Legislature on the Genocide Education Trust Fund and Programming: FY2024

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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.

January 2025

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner

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January 2025

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit this Report to the Legislature: *Genocide Education Trust Fund and Programming: FY2024*. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's genocide education work 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 also established a Genocide Education Trust Fund 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 Chapter 98, 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."*

Chapter 98 also requires that:

*"...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 FY2024, the Department continued to offer the Genocide Education Grant, which provided 51 Local Education Agencies with the funds to expand and deepen their instruction in the history and patterns of genocide. In this report, we summarize findings based on the participation of these LEAs in a statewide evaluation of genocide education as well as a review of their grant applications.

As we move into FY2025, the need for education to combat hate and recognize the mistakes of the past has only become more urgent. With the Legislature’s allocation of \$3 million to the Genocide Education Trust Fund, I am excited to be able to provide additional grant funding and resources to further this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell Johnston".

Russell D. Johnston  
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: FY2024*, pursuant to [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.”*

As stated above, the Genocide Education Trust Fund is intended to strengthen instruction on the history of genocide for middle and high school students. More specifically, Chapter 98 requires that every school district, to educate 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 FY2024, the state legislature appropriated \$2 million for the Genocide Education Trust Fund 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 and supply professional development 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 FY2024, the Trust Fund was used to offer the Genocide Education Grant. This grant provided 51 Local Education Agencies with the funds to expand and deepen their instruction in the history and patterns of genocide. In addition, funds were used to support a curriculum review of available genocide education materials. Finally, funds were used to support an evaluation of the Genocide Education Grant and to conduct a landscape analysis of genocide education instruction across Massachusetts.

# Report on the Genocide Education Trust Fund

## 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 FY2024;
- the expenditures made from the fund in FY2024 and the purposes of such expenditures;
- any grants provided to relevant community stakeholders and other stakeholder organizations in FY2024, 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 FY2024;
- the number of schools and school districts that applied for, but were not granted, funding in FY2024; and
- anticipated revenue and expenditure projections for FY2025.

### FY2024 Funds Received

In its FY2024 budget, the state appropriated **\$2,000,000** for the Genocide Education Trust Fund. No other funds were received by the Genocide Education Trust Fund this year.

### FY2024 Expenditures

In FY2024, the Department used the Civics Project Trust Fund to provide direct grant awards to local education agencies (LEAs) as well as to fund several key projects intended to strengthen genocide education, as follows (information accurate as of September 20, 2024):

	<b>Expenditures</b>
<b>Grant Awards</b>	<b>\$762,583</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>
Curricular Materials Review	\$37,292
Genocide Education Evaluation	\$114,419
<b>Total Expended (as of September 20, 2024)</b>	<b>\$914,294</b>

### FY2025 Revenue and Major Expenditure Projections

In its FY2025 budget, the state appropriated **\$3 million** to the Genocide Education Trust Fund. The Department is not aware of any anticipated additional revenue that the Trust Fund will receive this fiscal year.

Significant spending through FY2025 will include continued funding to LEAs awarded grants in Spring 2024, further funding for our genocide education evaluation work, and additional funds for genocide education resource development and employee costs. Estimated expenditures on these projects are listed below:

	<b>Expenditures</b>
<b>Grants to Public Entities</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>
Genocide Education Grant (FC 215)	\$1,200,000
<b>Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>
Genocide Education Resource Development	\$200,000
Genocide Education Evaluation	\$70,000
<b>Employee Costs</b>	<b>\$97,500</b>
<b>Total Estimated FY2025 Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,567,500</b>

## Detailed Report on FY2024 Trust Fund Spending

### Grant Awards

#### *FC 215/FC 215a: Genocide Education Grant*

For FY2024, 36 LEAs were awarded Cycle 1 Genocide Education Grant funds as a continuation of work they began in FY2023. In addition, Massachusetts LEAs were eligible to apply for Cycle 2 funding in FY2024, with awardees having the option to divide their funds between FY2024 and FY2025. Those recommended for funding most closely met the criteria outlined in the [Funding Opportunity RFP document](#). 43 LEAs were awarded funds across FY2024 and FY2025, with 16 receiving funds for FY2024. Four proposals were not funded due to incomplete information or lack of alignment with the priorities of the RFP.

The grant was intended to support LEAs in strengthening instruction in the history and patterns of genocide. Priority was given to LEAs with schools requiring assistance according to the state accountability system and/or where greater than 40 percent of the student population was designated as low-income. 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:** Preferred proposals included opportunities to collaborate with relevant organizations and/or engage local community members.

Ultimately, the funded projects included several 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. LEAs selected in Cycle 1 were awarded **\$691,189** for FY2024 as a continuation of work they began in FY2023. In addition, the Department awarded **\$1,343,089** in Cycle 2 funding. Across both grants, **\$762,583** was spent in FY2024 and approximately **\$1,204,192** will be in FY2025.

A list of recipients for Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 can be found in Appendix A.

## Project Expenses

### *Curriculum Review*

In fall 2023, the Department published the K-12 History Social Science Curricular Materials Guide, a synthesis of several review projects developed in partnership with the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy. The guide contains information for Massachusetts educators and district leaders selecting history/social science curricular materials at grades K-5, grade 8, and grades 9-12 levels. As part of the grades 9-12 review, the Department included an evaluation of supplemental materials intended to support instruction about genocide. In FY2024, total expenditures for this project were **\$37,292**.

### *Genocide Education Evaluation*

In partnership with research organization MC<sup>2</sup> Education, the Department began a genocide education evaluation. This statewide study includes an evaluation of the Genocide Education Grant as well as a landscape analysis of the current state of genocide education instruction across the state. In FY2024, total expenditures for this project were **\$114,419**.

## Looking Ahead: Major FY2025 Expenditures

In FY2025, the Department will continue to fund the genocide education evaluation, completing the landscape analysis phase of this study. The Department will use the findings from this evaluation to design additional supports and resources for genocide education, which will also be funded by the Genocide Education Trust Fund. Additionally, the Department has hired a contract employee to increase capacity for this work. Alongside these projects, the Department plans to continue offering grant funding to support districts’ efforts to strengthen genocide education.

# Grantees' Genocide Education Programming in FY2024

The remainder of this report will describe genocide education instruction offered by recipients of the Genocide Education Grant, including:

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

It summarizes findings based on the responses of the two groups of grantees described above:

- **Cycle 1 Grantees:** The 39 LEAs awarded grants for FY2023 and FY2024. Of those, three received awards for FY2023 only. Two pairs of two LEAs each received joint awards.
- **Cycle 2 Grantees:** The 16 LEAs newly awarded grants for FY2024. Of these, 14 were also awarded grants to extend activities into FY2025.

As part of Cycle 2, 26 additional recipients were awarded grants for FY2025 only. Their information is not summarized in this report.

Due to the timing of grant awards, methods of data collection differed across Cycle 1 Grantees and Cycle 2 Grantees.

The 39 Cycle 1 Grantees received a survey from research organization MC<sup>2</sup> Education as part of a Department-sponsored statewide evaluation of genocide education. Of those grant recipients, 34 (87%) responded to the survey. However, not every grantee provided all the requested information.

For the 16 Cycle 2 Grantees, information was gathered from grant applications only. 15 out of 16 grantees reported course information.

## Grade Levels

### Cycle 1 Grantees

Cycle 1 grantees offered instruction in topics related to genocide across all secondary grade levels, with the most frequent instruction occurring in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Responding grantees indicated offering an average of 3.3 courses across the LEA that included instruction in genocide.

Below is a table showing the number of responding grantees offering genocide education as part of required instruction at the indicated grade level.

Grade Level	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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<b>Number of Grantees Reporting Instruction at this Grade Level</b>	7	9	11	15	15	15	5
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Source: MC2 Education, 2024

The following is a chart indicating the number of responding grantees offering genocide education as part of elective instruction at a given grade level.

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Number of Grantees Reporting Instruction at this Grade Level</b>	1	1	1	3	8	14	17

Source: MC2 Education, 2024

### Cycle 2 Grantees

Cycle 2 grantees also offered instruction in topics related to genocide across all secondary grade levels, with the most frequent instruction occurring in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Responding grantees indicated offering an average of 5.1 courses that included instruction in genocide. Below is a table showing instruction at each grade level by frequency across grantees (N=15).

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Number of Grantees Reporting Instruction at this Grade Level</b>	2	4	8	7	10	10	10

### Instructional Hours

#### Cycle 1 Grantees

Of those that reported instructional hours, LEAs offered an average of 88 hours related to genocide education.

#### Cycle 2 Grantees

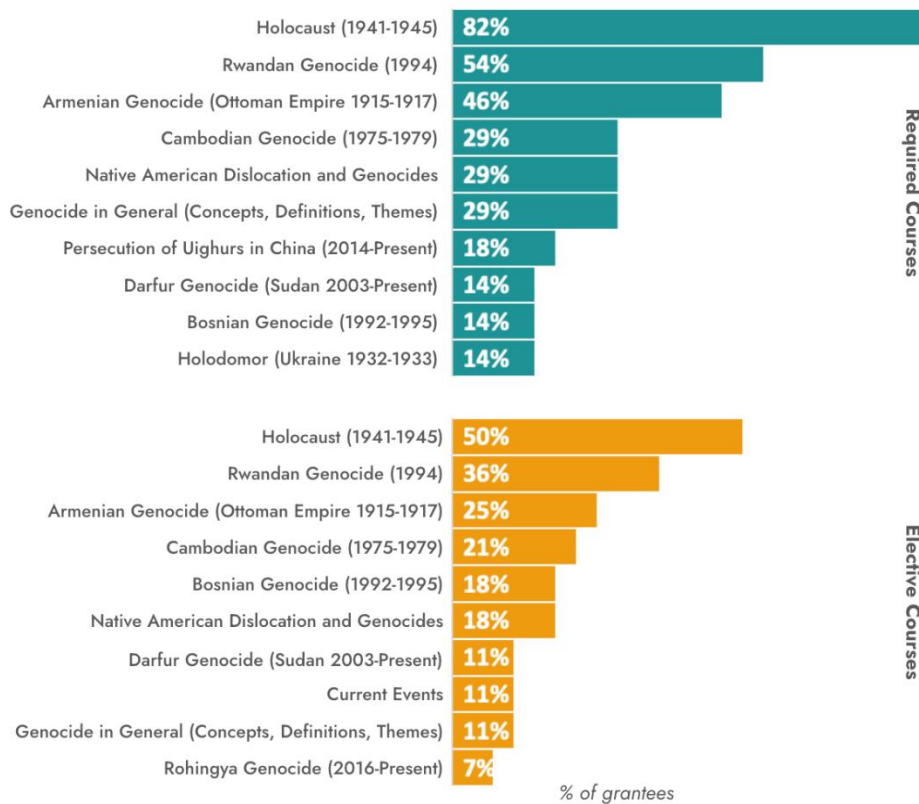
Of those that reported instructional hours, LEAs offered an average of 80 hours related to genocide education.

## Courses and Topics of Instruction

### Cycle 1 Grantees

Cycle 1 LEAs offered instruction in genocide across a variety of courses, including both required and elective courses. 82% of responding grantees reported including topics of genocide within mandatory courses in history, social studies, and English Language Arts.

Within these courses, LEAs referenced the teaching of several specific genocides. The table below highlights the top ten genocide education topics covered in required and elective courses. (These topics were identified by LEAs within an open-ended survey question.)



Source: MC2 Education, 2024

### Cycle 2 Grantees

Cycle 2 LEAs also offered instruction in genocide across several courses, including both required and elective courses. 87.5% of grantees reported including topics of genocide within mandatory courses in history, social studies, and English Language Arts. Instruction was most frequently offered in required high school history courses (US History I/II, World History I/II, and Advanced Placement courses such as Comparative Government, US History, and World History). In addition:

- 62% of grantees reported offering electives that included genocide education instruction.

- Some LEAs also offered more specialized courses on genocide such as “Race and Identity in a Global Context,” “Facing History and Ourselves,” and “Global Leadership,” among others.

## Summary

Through its work in FY2024, the Department has leveraged the Genocide Education Trust Fund to create new opportunities for teachers and students to learn vitally important history to support their development as ethical, informed young people with the knowledge and frameworks to confront injustices and make moral choices. As evidenced by the data shared in this report, LEAs have taken advantage of these opportunities to expand and deepen their instruction surrounding the history and patterns of genocide. We look forward to continuing this work in FY2025.

## Appendix A: Genocide Education Grant Recipients

Awarded in Cycle 1 (ended June 2024)

	<b>Award Amount</b>
Andover	\$23,000
Barnstable	\$4,000
Bellingham	\$11,260
Beverly	\$32,000
Boston	\$30,000
Danvers	\$13,500
Fall River	\$33,870
Franklin	\$16,080
Hadley	\$2,562
Haverhill	\$46,000
Lynn	\$53,780
Lynnfield	\$21,800
Malden	\$44,280
Map Academy	\$15,000
Masconomet	\$14,500
Melrose (with Woburn)	\$23,600
Methuen	\$18,438
Nashoba	\$9,750
New Heights	\$8,000
North Middlesex	\$33,000
Northborough (with Southborough)	\$20,400
Northborough-Southborough RSD	\$17,350
Peabody	\$30,000
Provincetown	\$7,000
Randolph	\$5,500
South Shore Charter	\$19,000
Southeast Regional	\$20,924
Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational/Technical	\$6,890
Somerville	\$6,480
Springfield	\$25,415
Taunton	\$21,100
Wareham	\$28,000
Westport	\$8,310
Worcester	\$20,400
<b>Total Awards for FY2024</b>	<b>\$691,189</b>

## Awarded in Cycle 2 (funding available through June 2025)

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	<b>Award Amount</b>
Andover	\$40,000
Arlington	\$39,500
Boston Collegiate Charter	\$20,000
Bridge Boston Charter	\$20,000
Brookline	\$60,000
Cambridge	\$60,000
Codman Academy	\$16,000
Community Day Charter	\$36,225
Collaborative for Regional Educational Service and Training	\$20,000
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District	\$15,000
Fitchburg	\$40,000
Gloucester	\$40,000
Hadley	\$1,900
Haverhill	\$60,000
Holliston	\$31,150
Holyoke	\$33,700
Littleton	\$40,000
Lynn	\$60,000
Lynnfield	\$40,000
Malden	\$40,069
Manchester Essex Regional School District	\$30,000
Marshfield	\$15,300
Mashpee	\$21,600
Mendon-Upton	\$39,370
New Heights Charter	\$6,000
Newburyport	\$40,000
Newton	\$59,750
North Andover	\$39,500
Northampton	\$18,400
Northborough and Southborough (joint award)	\$20,000
Northboro-Southboro	\$16,500
Peabody	\$60,000
Phoenix Charter Academy	\$20,000
Randolph	\$15,390
Salem	\$15,085
Shrewsbury	\$19,320
Somerset Berkley Regional School District	\$20,000
South Shore Charter	\$40,000

Southeastern Regional Vocational technical	\$29,250
Stoneham	\$40,000
Woburn	\$14,080
Worcester	\$50,000
<b>Total Awards (across FY2024 and FY2025)</b>	<b>\$1,343,089</b>

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