

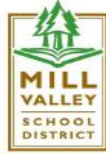
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

# Anti-Semitism, Holocaust, and Genocide Education



Educational Services Update  
March 2024

# Mill Valley School District Vision and Mission



**Vision:** Our learning community is dedicated to developing globally-minded, compassionate, resilient, and courageous students to learn and lead change in their world.

**Mission:** We provide a balanced education, enabling all students to achieve academic success in an environment that fosters social-emotional development, equity, and creativity. We prepare our students to be responsible, contributing members of our community, to be wise stewards of our natural environment, and to thrive as global citizens in a rapidly changing world.

# MVSD Equity Policy

## Board Policy 0145

“Addressing the needs of the most marginalized learners requires recognition of the inherent value of diversity and acknowledgement that educational excellence requires a commitment to equity in the opportunities provided to students and the resulting outcomes.

In order to eradicate institutional bias of any kind, including implicit or unintentional biases and prejudices that affect student achievement, and to eliminate disparities in educational outcomes for students from historically underserved and underrepresented populations, the district shall proactively identify class and cultural biases as well as practices, policies, and institutional barriers that negatively influence student learning, perpetuate achievement gaps, and impede equal access to opportunities for all students.”

# MVSD Equity Statement

## Diversity Equity & Inclusion District Committee

As part of a diverse bigger world, we believe that every Mill Valley School District child brings inherent value to our community and should be celebrated. Instruction and care that meets the needs of each student is critical, wholly inclusive of our most marginalized learners. We aim to ensure that all students of all races, home languages, economic status, abilities, parent education, and genders see themselves as an integral part of our community, and achieve academic and social success. We will overcome the persistent and predictable disparity in student achievement. In order to ensure this student success and eradicate institutional bias of any kind, explicit or unintentional.



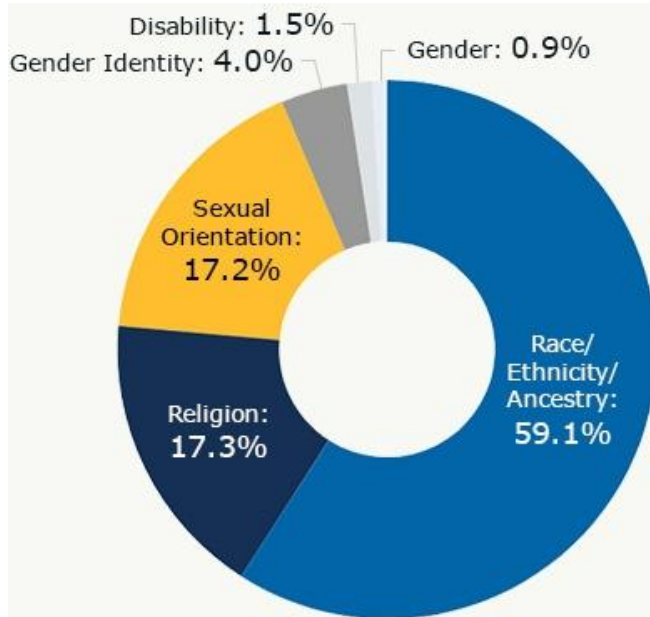


# National, State, and County Initiatives to Counter Anti-Semitism & Hate

## FBI Hate Crime Statistics

### US Department of Justice

### Bias Motivation Categories for Victims of Single-bias Incidents in 2022



### From the JFCS Holocaust Center

- A 33% increase in hate crimes was reported in California in 2021.
- Anti-semitic incidents rose by 41% in California in 2022—**the highest number on record.**
- Research demonstrates that young people who receive Holocaust education report a deeper understanding of the Jewish community, a more pluralistic attitude, and a greater willingness to challenge intolerant behavior in others.

# Focus on Countering Anti-Semitism

## 2021

Governor Newsom Launches Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education

The JFCS Holocaust Center established the Teachers Collaborative for California Holocaust & Genocide Education

## May 2023

The White House developed The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism

MVSD Board of Trustees requested this presentation for Spring 2024

## September 2023

Governor Newsom 2023-24 budget passed with \$1.5 million in renewed funding for the California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education.

CA Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, encourages school districts to participate in holocaust education oral history speaker series

# Marin County Leads State Efforts

## 2021

Governor Newsom Launches Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education

The JFCS Holocaust Center established the Teachers Collaborative for California Holocaust & Genocide Education

- Created from a \$1.9 million grant from Marin County Office of Education @ the State of California.
- Grant mandates a wide representation of organizations. Current members are:
  1. Anti-Defamation League: Echoes and Reflections
  2. Avenues for Change: Holocaust and Genocide Education
  3. Cambodian Genocide Resource Center
  4. Central Valley Holocaust Educators' Network (CVHEN)
  5. Facing History and Ourselves
  6. Genocide Education Project: Armenian Genocide Education
  7. Holocaust Museum LA
  8. Jewish Family and Children's Services Holocaust Center
  9. Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
  10. Museum of Tolerance
  11. Redbud Resource Group: Indigenous History and Education
  12. TWIGE Project: Teaching about the Genocides in Rwanda and Guatemala
  13. USC Shoah Foundation for Visual History and Education
  14. Uyghur Genocide Online Resource Center



# California Teachers Collaborative

## Long-Term Plan for 2027



California Teachers Collaborative

### Shared goals for the collaborative include:

- To create new, standards-aligned lessons on the Holocaust and genocide for all 6-12th grade students in California.
- To empower and unify educators in teaching the lessons of history and about what happens when bias goes unchecked.
- To combat rising anti-semitism and hate by creating more respectful and empathetic next generations.

### By 2027 the California Teachers Collaborative will:

- Train 8,500 teachers through professional development workshops and institutes.
- Serve all California school districts with students grades 6-12.
- Educate 1,062,500 California students.

# Nationwide Focus on Countering Anti-Semitism & Hate

**May 2023** The White House developed The U.S. National Strategy to Countering Anti-Semitism

By 2027, the goal is to:

- Create new, standards-aligned lessons on the Holocaust & genocide for all 6-12th grade students in California.
- Empower & unify educators in teaching lessons of history & about what happens when bias goes unchecked.
- Combat rising anti-semitism and hate by creating more respectful and empathetic next generations.



*“...People who peddle these antisemitic conspiracy theories and fuel racial, ethnic, and religious hatred against Jews also target other communities—including Black and brown Americans; Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders; LGBTQI+ individuals; Muslim Americans; women and girls; and so many others. Our intelligence agencies have determined that domestic terrorism rooted in white supremacy—including anti-semitism—is the greatest terrorist threat to our Homeland today.*

*...Protecting the Jewish community from antisemitism is essential to our broader fight against all forms of hate, bigotry, and bias—and to our broader vision of a thriving, inclusive, and diverse democracy...” -Joe Biden*

***“Building an inclusive school community should be a continuous, year-round priority.”***

-Resources and Best Practices for School Administrators & Educators from ADL

## **Prevention Recommendations**

continuously assess your school’s culture and environment by

- Having a committee of students, family members and staff working on diversity, equity and inclusion goals
- Providing anti-bias and anti-racism training for teachers and staff
- Ensuring physical and virtual spaces are accessible to all
- Considering which identities are represented on your school signage, posters and photographs.
- Conducting a school climate survey and reviewed the results with your school community and staff.
- Having clear policies and protocols to follow when an incident occurs will make your response swift and effective (investigation, communication, and healing through restorative practices.)



# MVSD Proactive Professional Learning

## ED CAMPS

- Combating Hate Speech - taught by Jonna Palmer
- Restorative Practices I & II - taught by Laura Myers
- Jewish-Muslim panels countering antisemitism & Islamophobia in education
- Inclusive Classroom Practices

## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION®

- Award-winning protocol for effectively engaging, sustaining and deepening interracial dialogue.
- Help individuals and organizations address persistent racial disparities intentionally, explicitly, and comprehensively.

## FACING HISTORY FACING OURSELVES

- Connecting History and Today
- Believe the bigotry and hate that we witness today are the legacy of brutal injustices of the past. -help teachers and students face our collective histories and understand how they inform attitudes and behaviors in today's world. -uses lessons of history to challenge teachers and their students to stand up to bigotry and hate.

## CRITICAL FRIENDS

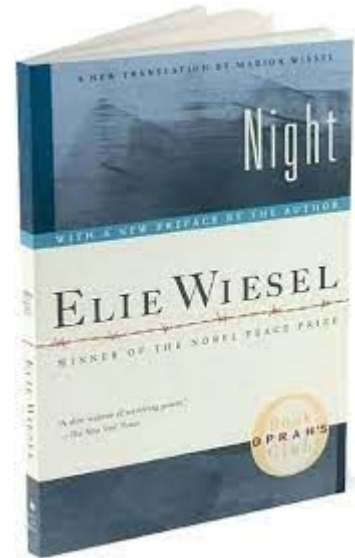
- Envision high functioning communities where systems and institutions are restructured, equitable and produce positive outcomes for all despite race, culture, gender or ethnicity.
- Support leaders to develop and execute transformative strategies that create equity by recognizing and eliminating unconscious bias within their organizations.



# MVSD Classroom Practices

## Examples

- ❖ Library Resources - Building empathy through books in TK-8
- ❖ MVMS Global and Ethnic Studies Elective | Maggie Front
  - Fluid curriculum based on current events, student interest, and available resources.
  - Students learn about interdependence, systems thinking, awareness of themselves and others, and productively struggle with ambiguity and divergent ideas.
- ❖ 8th grade Social Studies & ELA Units
  - American Identity, History of Racism in America
  - Holocaust Survivor Testimony Presentation
  - Night by Elie Wiesel -Holocaust survivor's memoirCentral questions:
  - How is our identity shaped and reshaped by the circumstances we encounter?
  - How do tragedy and trauma influence an individual's identity and choices?



# MVSD Parent Outreach and Education

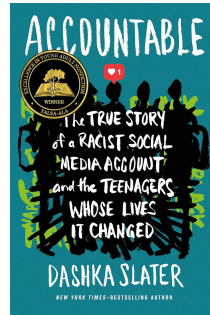
- ❖ DEI PTA Committees

- ❖ Parent Eds

- ❖ Book club thru March 11

- *Accountable*

- Published in August 2023, this non-fiction young adult title explores the repercussions of a racist Instagram account created by a student at Albany High School in the East Bay. It is a quick, but important read telling the story from the perspective of those targeted, staff, students, parents and community members.



# MVSD Next Steps

*“Prevent and Prepare Building an inclusive school community should be a continuous, year-round priority.”*

## ◆ MVSD next steps

- Continue good teaching!
- Continue DEI work
- Stay abreast of new developments from The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism & the California Teachers Collaborative
- Encourage teachers to attend the Teachers Collaborative for California Holocaust & Genocide Education in June



## ◆ Recs to board

- Examine DEI statement
- Stay abreast of new developments from The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism
- Renew Critical Friends contract