

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5851**

---

**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Salomon, Billig, Gildon, Hasegawa, Holy, Lias, MacEwen, McCune, Schoesler, Short, Torres, Valdez, Van De Wege, Wagoner, Warnick, C. Wilson, and L. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to Holocaust and genocide education in public  
2 schools; amending RCW 28A.300.115; adding new sections to chapter  
3 28A.230 RCW; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration  
4 date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) April of each year is hereby designated international  
9 genocide prevention and awareness month to provide space for formal  
10 recognition of the Holocaust and other examples of genocide and  
11 crimes against humanity.

12 (2) During the month of April, each public school shall conduct  
13 or promote age-appropriate educational activities that provide  
14 instruction, awareness, and understanding of the Holocaust and  
15 genocide education to all students. These activities may include  
16 classroom instruction, guest speaker presentations, school  
17 assemblies, and other developmentally appropriate activities.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.115 and 2019 c 85 s 1 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

1           (1) ~~((Every))~~ (a) In addition to the requirements in section 1 of  
2 this act, every public middle school, junior high school, and high  
3 school is strongly encouraged to include in its curriculum  
4 instruction on the events of the period in modern world history known  
5 as the Holocaust ~~(, the systemic, German state-sponsored persecution~~  
6 ~~and murder of Jews and other innocent victims by the Nazi regime and~~  
7 ~~its collaborators between the years 1933 and 1945. The instruction~~  
8 ~~may also include))~~ and other examples of genocide and crimes against  
9 humanity. The studying of this material is intended to: Examine the  
10 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and intolerance; prepare students  
11 to be responsible citizens in a pluralistic democracy; and be a  
12 reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples never again to permit  
13 such occurrences.

14           (b) Public schools are strongly encouraged to offer at least one  
15 Holocaust and genocide education stand-alone elective that is  
16 available to students at least once during grades six through 12.

17           (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
18 collaboration with an expert Washington nonprofit organization that  
19 teaches the lessons of the Holocaust and genocide, must:

20           (a) Develop best practices and guidelines for high quality  
21 instruction under this section; and

22           (b) Encourage and support middle school, junior high school, and  
23 high school teachers in implementing these best practices and  
24 guidelines.

25           (3) Beginning September 1, 2020, middle schools, junior high  
26 schools, and high schools that offer instruction as described in  
27 subsection (1) of this section must follow the best practices and  
28 guidelines developed under subsection (2) of this section.

29           (4) (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
30 must update and electronically publish the best practices and  
31 guidelines developed under this section on an annual basis.

32           (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must  
33 electronically publish, and update as needed, guidance on vertical  
34 alignment, materials, and professional learning to support  
35 implementation of the stand-alone elective described in subsection  
36 (1)(b) of this section.

37           (5) For the purposes of this section:

38           (a) "Genocide" means any of the following acts committed with  
39 intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial,  
40 or religious group, as such:

1 (i) Killing members of the group;

2 (ii) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the  
3 group;

4 (iii) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life  
5 calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in  
6 part;

7 (iv) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the  
8 group;

9 (v) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

10 (b) "Holocaust" means the systematic, state-sponsored persecution  
11 and murder of 6,000,000 Jews, as well as millions of Roma, LGBTQ  
12 identified people, political opponents, and others by the Nazi regime  
13 and its allies and collaborators between the years 1933 and 1945.

14 (6) This section expires July 1, 2027.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1)(a) Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, public middle  
18 schools, junior high schools, and high schools shall provide  
19 instruction on the following when the topics align with the social  
20 studies learning standards including United States history and  
21 contemporary world history:

22 (i) The events of the period in modern world history known as the  
23 Holocaust; and

24 (ii) Other examples of genocide and crimes against humanity.

25 (b) The studying of the material in (a) of this subsection is  
26 intended to: Examine the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and  
27 intolerance; prepare students to be responsible citizens in a  
28 pluralistic democracy; and be a reaffirmation of the commitment of  
29 free peoples never again to permit such occurrences. This instruction  
30 must follow the best practices and guidelines developed and updated  
31 under subsection (2)(a) of this section.

32 (c) Public schools are strongly encouraged to offer at least one  
33 Holocaust and genocide education stand-alone elective that is  
34 available to students at least once during grades six through 12.

35 (2)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
36 collaboration with an expert Washington nonprofit organization that  
37 teaches the lessons of the Holocaust and genocide, shall:

1 (i) Develop and annually update and electronically publish best  
2 practices and guidelines for high quality instruction under this  
3 section; and

4 (ii) Support middle school, junior high school, and high school  
5 teachers in implementing these best practices and guidelines.

6 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must  
7 electronically publish, and update as needed, guidance on vertical  
8 alignment, materials, and professional learning to support  
9 implementation of the stand-alone elective described in subsection  
10 (1)(c) of this section.

11 (3) For the purposes of this section:

12 (a) "Genocide" means any of the following acts committed with  
13 intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial,  
14 or religious group, as such:

15 (i) Killing members of the group;

16 (ii) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the  
17 group;

18 (iii) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life  
19 calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in  
20 part;

21 (iv) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the  
22 group;

23 (v) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

24 (b) "Holocaust" means the systematic, state-sponsored persecution  
25 and murder of 6,000,000 Jews, as well as millions of Roma, LGBTQ  
26 identified people, political opponents, and others by the Nazi regime  
27 and its allies and collaborators between the years 1933 and 1945.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this act takes effect July 1,  
29 2027.

--- END ---