

GIZELLA ABRAMSON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ACT

Overview



Providing curriculum resources for
teachers in North Carolina

GIZELLA ABRAMSON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ACT

-The Education Act was passed in November 2021 and states:

The State Board of Education shall review the middle school and high school standard course of study and, in consultation and coordination with the North Carolina Council on the Holocaust and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, shall:

- integrate into English, social studies courses, and other courses, as appropriate, education on the Holocaust and genocide
- develop a curriculum for a Holocaust Studies elective

[Click here to read the full text of the Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act](#)



“May you always walk on the sidewalk.”

—Gizella Abramson

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR GIZELLA ABRAMSON

THE NEWS of ORANGE COUNTY

SERVING ORANGE COUNTY SINCE 1893 • HILLSBOROUGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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'May you always walk on the sidewalk'

By VANESSA C. SHORTLEY Mar 25, 2009



Holocaust survivor Gizella Abramson speaks to students. Photo by Vanessa C. Shortley.

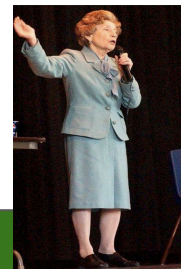
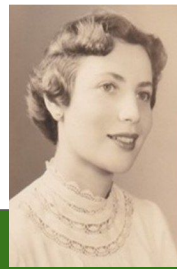
Gizella Abramson first began speaking about her experiences in the Holocaust to communities and schools in North Carolina in 1973. She worked with Governor James Hunt to establish the NC Council on the Holocaust from 1977-1981 and was one of its original twelve members when he created Executive Order #63B, making North Carolina the first state in the nation to create a council on the Holocaust. From 1988-2010, she told her story of survival at eight to ten teacher workshops across the state each school year. Her son, Michael Abramson, is currently the chairman of the NC Council on the Holocaust.

Click on the article to the left to learn more about Gizella's story



The
North Carolina
Council on the
HOLOCAUST

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



WHY LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST?



In the 2020 *U.S. Millennial Knowledge and Awareness Survey* administered by the Claims Conference to all 50 states, only 25% of North Carolinian respondents could meet all three of the Holocaust knowledge tasks in the chart to the right.

Table 1. Three Criteria Used to Codify "Holocaust Knowledgeable" Millennials/Gen Z

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1) | Have "Definitely heard about the Holocaust" AND |
| 2) | Can name at least one concentration camp, death camp, or ghetto AND |
| 3) | Know that 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust |

[Click on this link to learn more about the 2020 survey](#)

WHY LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST?



In the 2020 *U.S. Millennial Knowledge and Awareness Survey* administered by the Claims Conference to all 50 states, almost half (48%) of respondents said that they had seen Nazi symbols in their community, on social media, or in both places.

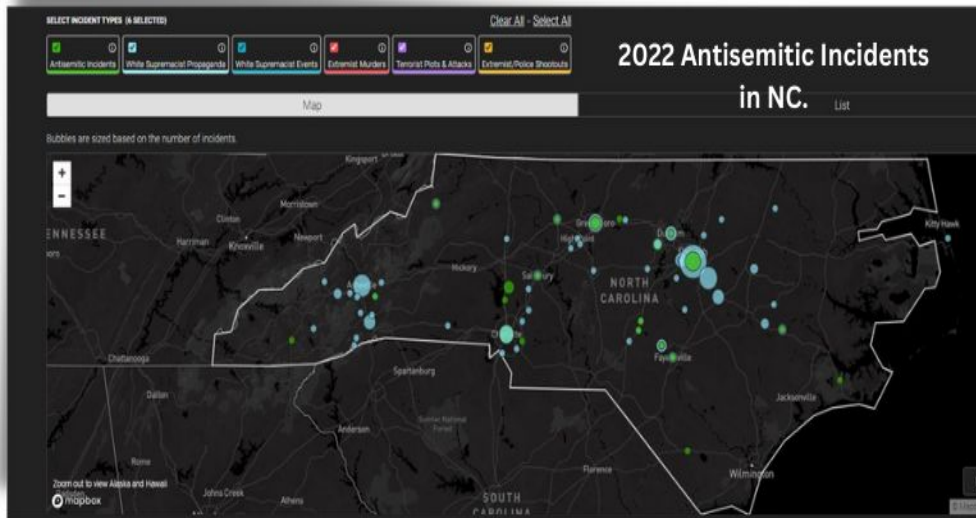
28. Have you personally seen Nazi symbols in your community or on the social media platforms you visit or have used in the past 5 years?

Some common examples of Nazi symbols include: flags with swastikas, pictures idealizing Hitler, flyers with pro-Nazi messages, pictures glorifying Nazi soldiers, "Heil Hitler" symbols such as Nazi-imagery or tattoos with "88" a numerical code for "Heil Hitler."

[Click on this link to see all of the NC survey results from 2020.](#)



WHY LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST?



In March of 2023, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released their annual "Audit of Antisemitic Incidents," showing a **30% increase** in NC from 2021 to 2022.

"We are deeply troubled by the surge in antisemitic incidents reported in North Carolina in 2022," said Meredith R. Weisel, the ADL regional director, in the press release. "The surges in organized white supremacist propaganda activity like banner drops and flyer distribution, and significant increases in antisemitic incidents in K-12 schools and on college campuses, all contributed to these unusually high numbers. We must work together to combat the spread of bigotry and hate in our communities."

[Click on this link to read the Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022](#)

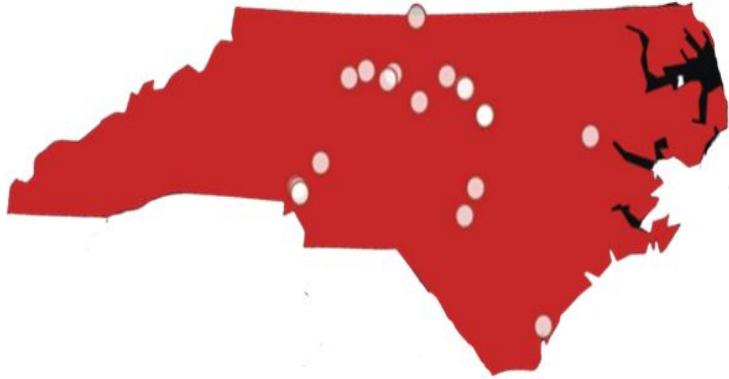


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WHY LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST?

In 2021, the Southern Poverty Law Center tracked **28 hate groups** in North Carolina.



Locations of hate groups in NC include:

- Snow Camp
- Winston-Salem
- Greenville
- Hillsborough
- Linden
- Greensboro
- Durham
- Kernersville
- Charlotte
- Concord
- Pelham
- Raleigh
- Fayetteville
- Wilmington

[Click on this link to visit the SPLC's Hate Map for more details](#)



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MEET THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Working in conjunction with NCDPI and comprised entirely of current and retired teachers, the Curriculum Development Team, all NC Holocaust Council Members, includes the following credentials:

ENGLISH:

3 Teacher Team:
-2 retired teachers
-1 teacher currently
in the classroom

All 3 teachers
are Nationally
Board Certified

2 of the three
teachers are
USHMM Teacher
Fellows

All 3 teachers
have taught a
Holocaust
elective course

Combined
89 years
of teaching
experience

Combined
70 years
of teaching the
Holocaust
experience

SOCIAL STUDIES:

3 Teacher Team:
-2 retired teachers
-1 teacher currently
in the classroom

2 of the 3
teachers are
Nationally
Board Certified

2 of the three
teachers are
USHMM Teacher
Fellows

All 3 teachers
have taught a
Holocaust
elective course

Combined
76 years
of teaching
experience

Combined
55 years
of teaching the
Holocaust
experience

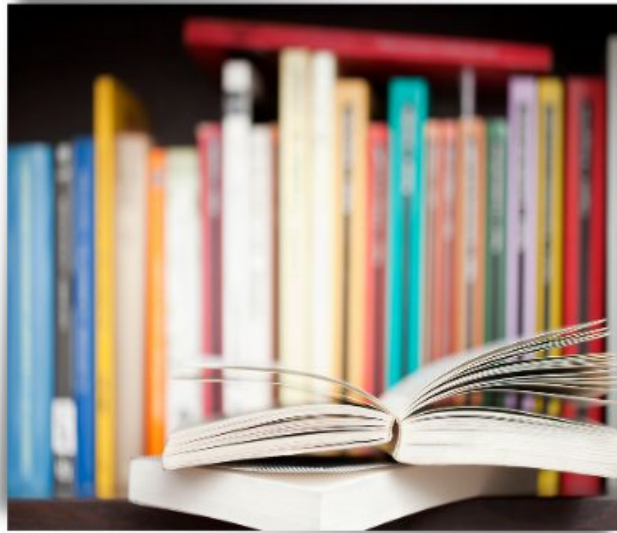


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A curriculum developed by teachers for teachers

INFORMATION ABOUT ELA CURRICULUM RESOURCES



-Each grade level 6-12 has two text sets (an anchor text and companion texts) that teachers can choose to use to teach the Holocaust in their ELA class.

-Each text set has a **core or anchor text** as the focus of the themes and standards taught and companion texts that help provide context for the anchor text. At least one anchor text choice at every grade level is available in a digital format for ease of access. Teachers can choose to use one or more lessons, teach excerpts instead of the full anchor text, or use materials they already have to teach the Holocaust.

-All text sets include a thorough unit plan with standards-based, classroom-tested lessons by NC teachers and culminating activities to help assess student learning.

-Foundational lessons for teaching the Holocaust from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and important resources for teachers are also provided at each grade level.

Click on this link see the text choices for each grade level for English



INFORMATION ABOUT SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM RESOURCES

-Each grade level 6-12 has resources aligned to appropriate standards where the Holocaust could be taught. Teachers can choose which standards to use to teach the Holocaust and can choose whether to use the resources that have been developed or their own resources.

-Teachers should evaluate which standards are best to use to teach about the Holocaust or topics relating to the Holocaust and other genocides, choosing the most relevant and appropriate resources based on the grade or course being taught.

-Foundational lessons for teaching the Holocaust from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and important resources for teachers are also provided at each grade level.



*“We study history in order to intervene
in the course of history.”*

-Adolf von Harnack

HOLOCAUST ELECTIVE COURSE



-To be offered as an optional elective course in high school beginning in the 2024-2025 school year

-Objectives and course outline will be provided for teachers by DPI and the NC Council on the Holocaust

“What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander.”

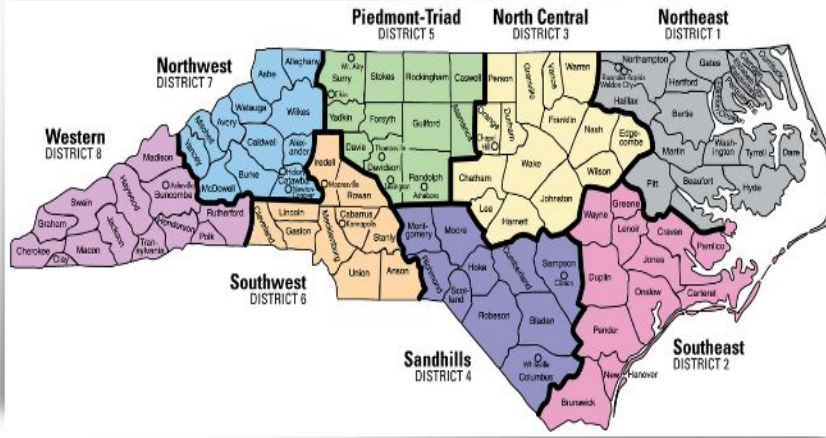
-Elie Wiesel

NC HOLOCAUST EDUCATORS' NETWORK

-Since 2020, the NC Council on the Holocaust has been building a network of Holocaust educators across North Carolina. This network is comprised of leaders in Holocaust education who volunteer their time to keep the teachers in their region /county connected to professional development opportunities offered through the NC Council on the Holocaust and other organizations such as NCCAT, Appalachian State, and the USHMM.

-Our goal is to have 100% of the counties represented by the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year so that every district has clear communication about opportunities and resources are available for teachers in NC when teaching about the Holocaust and making local choices about implementing the Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act.

-The Holocaust educators in our network will be assisting in the state-wide professional development efforts for the Holocaust curriculum, so if your county is not represented, please encourage teachers in your county to apply!



[Click here see a PDF of the current NC Holocaust Educators' Network](#)



NC HOLOCAUST EDUCATORS' NETWORK

Of the 152 possible volunteer positions in our network, 91 of them or 60 percent are filled, which means we need 61 positions filled for many county and city school systems in the state. Share the link below with any teachers in the districts below who may be interested in becoming a leader in Holocaust education and help keep your school district connected with helpful news, resources, and professional development that will soon be offered:

Region 1:

Coordinators Needed:

Bertie
Dare
Edenton/Chowan
Elizabeth City/Pasquotank
Halifax
Hertford
Hyde
Northampton
Perquimans
Roanoke Rapids
Washington
Weldon City

Region 2:

Coordinators Needed:

Craven
Duplin
Jones
Pamlico
Pender
Wayne

Region 3:

Coordinators Needed:

Chapel Hill-Carrboro
Nash
Warren

Region 4:

Coordinators Needed:

Clinton City
Columbus
Montgomery
Richmond
Robeson
Scotland
Whiteville City

Region 5:

Coordinators Needed:

Caswell
Elkin City
Lexington City
Mt. Airy City
Thomasville City

Region 6:

Coordinators Needed:

Cleveland
Gaston
Kannapolis City
 Mooresville City
Union

Region 7:

Coordinators Needed:

Alleghany
Alexander
Avery
Hickory City
McDowell
Newton-Conover City
Watauga
Wilkes
Yancey

Region 8:

Coordinators Needed:

Asheville City
Graham
Haywood
Jackson
Macon
Rutherford
Swain

To apply to be a County Coordinator for any county/city school system without a current coordinator, [CLICK HERE](#).

Applications are ongoing for counties without a coordinator.

PREPARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION...

- ✓ Make sure teachers and curriculum specialists in English and Social Studies are aware of the legislation and the resources that will be provided to support teachers in teaching about the Holocaust. Share this presentation with them!
- ✓ **Encourage teachers to take advantage of webinars, in-person workshops, and other trainings offered by the NC Council on the Holocaust and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.**
- ✓ Support your teachers by considering the purchase of classroom sets of books to give them the full range of choices in which texts that they can use to teach the Holocaust. This is NOT a requirement, though it would give teachers the opportunity to use recommended texts with detailed resources developed for them.
- ✓ **Contact your County Coordinator from the NC Holocaust Educator Network (see previous slides) and support them in creating clear communication with teachers in the county. If you do not have a coordinator, encourage teachers to apply.**
- ✓ Communicate with and prepare a presentation that can be delivered to your local board of education.
- ✓ **Stay connected to the NC Council on the Holocaust by signing up for email updates, following us on Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook. Consider volunteering to be a training site for your region and coordinating with your Regional Director. (see final slide)**

[Click here to volunteer to be a training site for your region for PD in the 2023-2024 school year](#)

OVERVIEW OF KEY ELEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1

ELA Integration Supports

- ELA teachers in grades 6-12 can choose to use the provided curriculum resources or their own resources to teach the Holocaust
- Review slide 11 for recommended anchor text choices for each grade level
- Available in Fall 2023

2

Social Studies Integration Supports

- Social Studies teachers in grades 6-12 choose which standards to use to teach the Holocaust
- Thorough, classroom-tested resources aligned to identified social studies standards will be provided as a support for each course
- Available in Fall 2023

3

Professional Development

- In-person and virtual trainings will be developed and scheduled for each educational region of the state
- Holocaust education leaders in each region will be trained to help deliver professional development
- Districts are invited to volunteer to be a training site for their region. (See slide 14 to apply)
- Professional Development Plan will be available in Fall 2023

4

Elective Course

- Objectives and a course outline for the elective course will be developed in 2023-2024
- The elective course code and course description will be available when students register for the 2024-2025 school year
- A course outline and resources will be provided for teachers of the elective course
- The course can be taught beginning in the 2024-2025 school year



“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.”

-Alexander Graham Bell

FALL 2023 HOLOCAUST TRAININGS

The following links lead to current webinars, workshops, and trainings from the NC Council on the Holocaust that we recommend teachers in North Carolina attend to learn about the Holocaust and how to teach it effectively to their students.



October 19, 2023

THE GIZELLA ABRAMSON TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST CONFERENCE WEST

From 8-4 PM at the Education Building of WSFCS in Winston-Salem, NC, ELA and Social Studies teachers from grades 6-12 will hear from a Holocaust survivor, learn from experts in the field, experience hands-on lessons, and explore resources for teaching the Holocaust. Public school classroom teachers will have their substitute paid for if attending the conference.



NOVEMBER 2, 2023

2023-2024 WEBINAR SERIES: CRISIS IN COLLEYVILLE: A CONVERSATION WITH RABBI CHARLIE CYTRON-WALKER

From 7-8 PM through a Zoom webinar, teachers will hear Rabbi Cytron-Walker share his experience of being held hostage with members of his congregation in his synagogue in Colleyville, Texas in January of 2022 by an antisemitic gunman. Learn about their escape and the lessons we can all learn from this experience.



October 26, 2023

2023-2024 WEBINAR SERIES: A CONVERSATION WITH NC HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ALEXANDER "LEX" SILBIGER

From 7-8 PM through a Zoom webinar, teachers will hear Rabbi Cytron-Walker share his experience of being held hostage with members of his congregation in his synagogue in Colleyville, Texas in January of 2022 by an antisemitic gunman. Learn about their escape and the lessons we can all learn from this experience.

STAY CONNECTED: GET UPDATES FIRST!

There are many ways you can stay connected with the NC Council on the Holocaust as the Gizella Abramson Holocaust Education Act is implemented!

Visit us on our teacher website at:

<https://ncholocaustcouncilworkshops.org/>



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*Receive a free, ready-to-use resource...
and stay connected!*



Subscribe to our YouTube Channel to see recorded webinars and Holocaust survivor stories.



Instagram

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[@nccouncilontheholocaust](https://www.instagram.com/nccouncilontheholocaust)



Connect with us on LinkedIn



Follow the NC Council on the Holocaust's public Facebook page



Join the Facebook group for NC Holocaust Educators

