



# Advancing Holocaust Education and Genocide Awareness in Washington State

*Community Partner: Holocaust Center for Humanity*

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Describe the specific need within the K–12 system

In a budget request for the 2023 Washington state biennial Operating Budget, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) stated “By studying the Holocaust, students learn the importance of speaking out against bigotry and indifference, promoting equity, and taking action. Studies show that Holocaust education both improves students' critical thinking skills and encourages ‘upstander’ behavior, which is the willingness to act upon civic awareness and confront hatred in all its forms.”<sup>1</sup>

This sentiment was affirmed and echoed by the 2023 Legislature which provided funding to OSPI to expand and deepen Holocaust education and genocide awareness in Washington’s K–12 public schools. OSPI stands as firmly as ever behind the importance of Holocaust education and genocide awareness for all Washington students, and the value of tapping a key community partner with specialized expertise in Holocaust education and a history of outreach to other communities that are survivors of genocide to broaden and deepen their own perspective to lead this important work.

### How a state investment in community partnership meets this need

The 2019 Legislature, in recognition of the need for Washington middle and high school students to be educated in Holocaust and genocide studies, directed OSPI to collaborate with “an expert Washington nonprofit that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust to advance Holocaust education and genocide awareness ([RCW 28A.300.115](#)). OSPI established a strong collaborative partnership with the Seattle-based Holocaust Center for Humanity (HCH), and through this joint venture, have succeeded in providing high-quality Holocaust education and genocide awareness to 5,029 educators working in 131 school districts, serving 91,505 students in the last three school years.

Since receiving additional state funding in 2023, HCH has expanded its focus beyond the deliverables in the original legislative directive to focus on accessibility, including an audio tour for their museum and translating their materials into Spanish. They continue to push for inclusion of all learners, looking into resources in American Sign Language, Braille, and other languages commonly spoken in Washington state. HCH has also focused resources on peer-to-

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). (September, 2022). *Bolstering Holocaust and Genocide Education for Washington Students Statewide*. <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2023-08/p10-bolstering-holocaust-and-genocide-education-washington-students-statewide.pdf>.

peer education, training students to teach others by guiding them through HCH's Anne Frank exhibit.

The Center has reached out to other communities in the state that have lived experience with surviving genocide to better honor and amplify their voices. HCH is currently working with the Rwandan, Bosnian, Ukrainian, and Cambodian communities to better frame HCH's Holocaust education within the larger context of genocide awareness education, and have worked in recent months with OSPI's Office of Native Education (ONE) to better understand and explore the powerful local and national context of the United States' own genocide against Indigenous peoples and Native American Tribes.

With increased state funding, HCH will continue to expand their educational efforts and mission to include:

- Further increasing the reach of their programs to serve more students;
- Continuing to create new and revise existing educational resources;
- Strengthening their administrative supports in the Spokane area while exploring enhanced supports in other regions;
- Conducting in-depth impact evaluations of their programming; and
- Training for OSPI staff who support school district implementation related to antisemitism and anti-discrimination.

### Describe existing or previous state investment in this work

The Legislature funded the original partnership between OSPI and HCH in support of requirements under RCW 28A.300.115 in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget, Senate Bill 6168, Sec. 520(17). Additional funding to expand the work was allocated in the 2023 biennial Operating Budget, Senate Bill 5187, Sec. 522(5)(c).

## SUPPORTING DATA AND EVIDENCE OF POSITIVE IMPACT

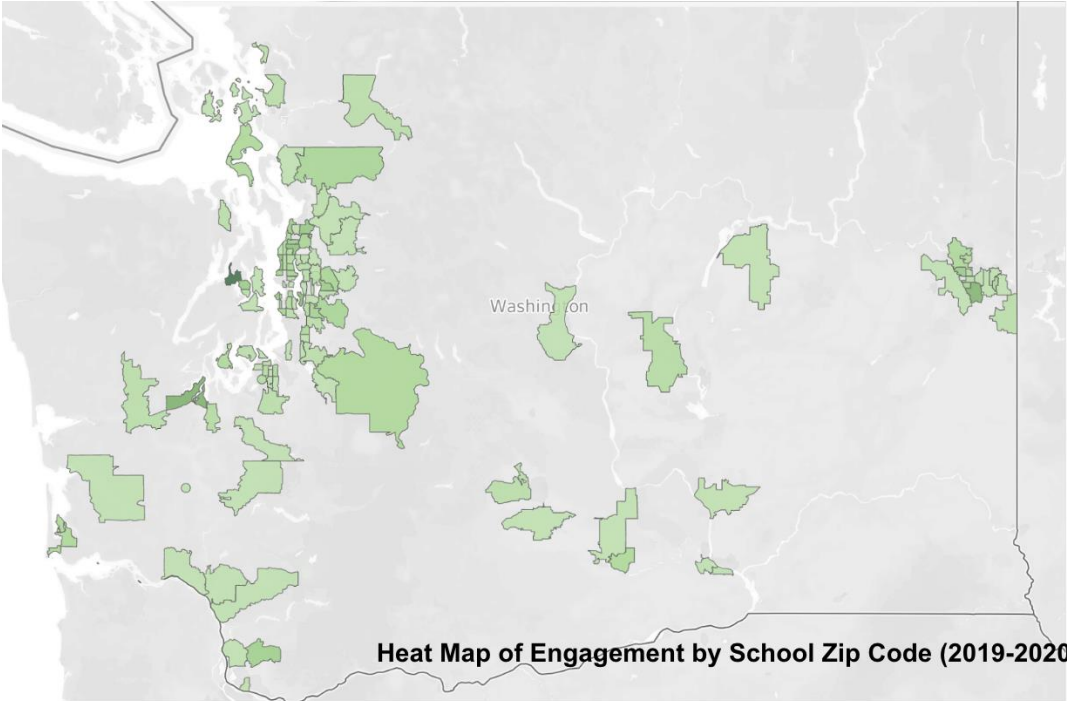
Below is a summary of the growth of educators, students, and school districts engaged with HCH programs and resources from the 2019–20 through the 2023–24 by school years.

Individuals Served	2019–20 School Year	2020–21 School Year	2021–22 School Year	2022–23 School Year	2023–24 School Year
<b>Educators</b>	473	554	717	1,493	1,792
<b>Students</b>	14,269	11,979	15,722	22,771	26,764
<b>School Districts</b>	82	110	122	98	131

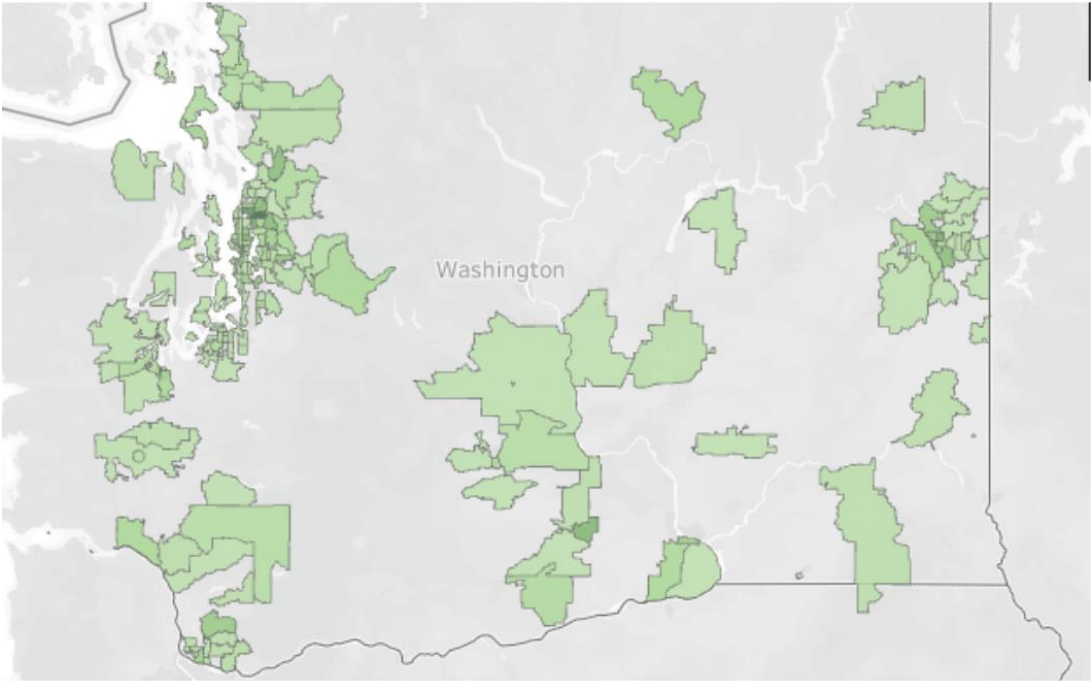
**Note:** These numbers are understated as HCH does not measure the impact of resources provided on its website. Additionally, there are a number of educators who teach the Holocaust and genocide awareness who do not utilize the resources/programs used in these metrics.

# Maps Showing the Number of HCH Engagements by Zip Code in 2019 and 2024

## Engagements in 2019



## Engagements in 2024



## Survey Results and Quotes

HCH collects feedback from participants. The following student and educator responses are examples of the feedback provided.

- *"After this speaker presentation, I better understand how the Holocaust affected real people and their families."* (Student Response)
- *"I really loved how at the end it was all related to what we could do to help stop horrible things and hateful actions."* (Student Response)
- *"This has inspired me to write poetry about injustices I or others in my life face to help bring attention to and rectify said grievances."* (Student Response)
- *"I feel better equipped to use humanizing language that avoids generalizations and stereotypes, and vocabulary to engage students with meaningful conversations about contemporary issues."* (Educator Response)

## Expansion in Eastern Washington

Since the 2019–20 school year, HCH has made an intentional effort to expand their services across the state and made progress expanding into the Eastern Washington region. The table below includes statistics on HCH’s work in the Spokane/Eastern Washington region, comparing the 2019–20 school year to the 2023–24 school year.

Program/Engagement	2019–20 School Year	2023–24 School Year
Professional Development	4 (79 educators)	22 (820 educators)
Teaching Trunks	10 (1,225 students)	22 (3,310 students)
Speakers Bureau	10 (570 students)	12 (1,687 students)
Field Trips (Virtual)	N/A	4 (160 students)
Student Leadership Board	N/A	35 students

## FISCAL DETAIL

Operating Expenditures	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Fund 001-1 (Program 05X)	\$1,513,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,320,000	\$1,383,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,513,000</b>	<b>\$1,275,000</b>	<b>\$1,320,000</b>	<b>\$1,383,000</b>
<b>Biennial Totals</b>	<b>\$2,788,000</b>		<b>\$2,703,000</b>	
Staffing	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Average Annual</b>	<b>0.0</b>		<b>0.0</b>	
Object of Expenditure	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Obj. C	\$1,513,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,320,000	\$1,383,000
Revenue	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029

	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Biennial Totals</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	

## ASSUMPTIONS AND CALCULATIONS

### Expansion, reduction, elimination or alteration of a current program or service:

The 2023–25 Biennial Operating Budget included \$750,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2025 for the expansion of comprehensive Holocaust and genocide education. This proposal will allow the Holocaust Center for Humanity (HCH) to continue their educational efforts.

### Detailed assumptions and calculations:

There are four steps necessary to sustain and grow Holocaust and genocide awareness education in Washington state, as described below.

1. Professional Development, Outreach and Programs for Educators:
  - Marketing
  - Professional Development Programs
  - Opportunities for Educators
2. Resource Buildout:
  - Resource Development
  - Existing Resource Buildout
  - Student Leadership, Student Focused Programs
3. Access to Programs and Resources Throughout Washington State:
  - Spokane Office Serving Eastern WA
  - Build Infrastructure
  - Facilities Expansion
4. Sustainability and Evaluation:
  - Consortium within OSPI
  - Data Collection and Reporting.

OSPI projects the need for a contract with Holocaust Center for Humanity (HCH) to perform these steps. The estimated cost for this contract is \$1,513,000 in fiscal year 2026, \$1,275,000 in fiscal year 2027, \$1,320,000 in fiscal year 2028, and \$1,383,000 in fiscal year 2029.

### Historical funding

There is no funding in the carry-forward level budget to continue this project into 2025–27.

### **Fiscal Year 2026**

FTE = 0.00

Total Funds = \$0.00

Near General Fund = \$0.00

Other Funds = \$0.00

### **Fiscal Year 2027**

FTE = 0.00

Total Funds = \$0.00

Near General Fund = \$0.00

Other Funds = \$0.00