Holocaust Education

Budget Language

500,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2026 is provided solely for the office of the superintendent of public instruction to contract with a nonprofit organization that supports Washington teachers in implementing lessons on the Holocaust for the expansion of comprehensive Holocaust and genocide education.

Proviso Purpose

This proviso supports implementation of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.300.115 which strongly encourages every public middle, junior high, and high school to include in its curriculum instruction on the events of the period in modern world history (1933–45) known as the Holocaust. It also supports resources to teach about other forms of genocide. The studying of this subject's material and other crimes against humanity is intended to examine the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and intolerance, prepare students to be responsible citizens in a pluralistic democracy and be a reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples never again to permit such occurrences.

Services Provided

OSPI contracted with the Holocaust Center for Humanity (HCH) which was selected following a competitive request for proposal process. HCH was contracted to deliver professional learning and develop resources in support of schools during the 2025-26 school year. Services included facilitating professional development sessions to teachers statewide and to districts, creating and adapting teaching and learning resources, developing new teacher lesson plans, and updating educational resources.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

The legislation designated OSPI, along with an expert Washington nonprofit organization that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust, to create best practices and guidelines for high-quality instruction and encourage and support middle school, junior high school, and high school teachers in implementing these best practices and guidelines. OSPI contracted with the Holocaust Center for Humanity as the expert nonprofit, having been identified through a competitive process following Department of Enterprise Services guidelines. Any public middle school, junior high school, or high school can receive services covered under this contract.

Beneficiaries in the 2025-26 School Year

Number of School Districts: 52

Number of Schools: 497

Number of Students: 21,875

Number of Educators: 2,038

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2026	$500,000	$500,000
2025	$750,000	$745,675
2024	$750,000	$745,825

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2026	24,410
2025	34,493
2024	28,838

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

Services provided were impacted by a reduction in funding (address in the Major Challenges section) and the timing of the executed contract. However, the services provided by the contractor were similar to what was provided in previous years and were focused on establishing a foundation for future growth and sustainability.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

The Holocaust for Humanity (HCH) offerings achieved broad statewide reach and exceeded the organization's educator engagement goals by offering an increased number of professional learning experiences. From these learning experiences, participants gained strategies for navigating difficult conversations, opportunities for media literacy analysis, classroom-ready resources and lesson plans, and support for teaching complex histories. HCH prioritized educational quality and depth of engagement by emphasizing personal stories and human connections, which yielded high ratings for program effectiveness among educator participants. The expansion of digital resources represents a scalable, high-impact strategy for expanding

Holocaust education access across diverse geographic regions. Surveys following professional development offerings indicated high program quality and participant satisfaction.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

At the close of fiscal year 2025, OSPI was informed that a competitive process would be necessary prior to contracting for the work in fiscal year 2026. Following this process, HCH was awarded the contract, which was executed in January 2026, creating a shortened timeline to deliver services. Having fulfilled a competitive procurement this fiscal year (FY 26), OSPI would have the option to pursue a sole source contract in future years, should funding for this work be restored.

In the 2025-27 biennial budget, funding for this program was reduced by $250,000 and funding was provided for fiscal year 2026 only. The lack of funding paired with the shortened contract timeline limited the scope and scale of the offerings.

Additionally, schools continue to face increasing administrative and logistical barriers to participating in off-site educational experiences due to rising transportation costs and limited district resources.

Future Opportunities

Strong educator demand suggests an opportunity to deepen impact through longer-term and on-going professional learning. Should funding be restored, the addition of flexible and asynchronous learning options such as self-paced online modules or recorded professional learning would provide flexibility for engagement and support sustainability. Instituting an ongoing review cycle for instructional materials would improve classroom implementation and ensure continued relevance, historical accuracy and support access to developmentally appropriate materials across grade-levels aligned to learning standards. A focused effort to engage rural and tribal communities and prioritize economically underserved districts would promote equitable statewide access.

Other Relevant Information

With the release of the revised learning standards for English Language Arts, including standards for digital and media literacy, and the efforts underway to revised learning standards for social studies, restored funding could support aligning content to learning standards and expanding opportunities for interdisciplinary connection for educators which may increase educator participation and relevance across multiple subject areas.

Current and detailed information about the resources and professional learning offered by the Holocaust Center for Humanity is available on their website.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2026 Fiscal Year.

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