



COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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District 28 Community Education Council - Quentin Mezetin, President

The resolution below was passed by Queens Community Board 6 at its June 11, 2025, Community Board Meeting:

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools are committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse cultures represented in our community, which is essential in creating inclusive environments;

WHEREAS, the DOE social studies curriculum includes the following Heritage and History Month recognitions: February - Black History Month, March - Women's History Month, April - Arab American Heritage Month, May - Jewish American Heritage Month, May - Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, June - Pride Month, September 15th through October 15th - Hispanic Heritage Month, November - Native American Heritage Month;

WHEREAS, Former President George W. Bush first declared Jewish Heritage Month on April 20, 2006, and Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden have all issued annual statements in recognition of it. Following the 350th Anniversary of American Jewish History in May 2004, May was selected as Jewish American Heritage Month;

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in 1992 designated May as National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in order to celebrate and commemorate the first Japanese immigrant's arrival in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the fundamental role Chinese immigrants played in completing the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869;

WHEREAS, therefore, the month of May is acknowledged as both Jewish American Heritage Month and National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month both federally and, more specifically, by the NYC Public School system;

WHEREAS, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that all children are entitled to fair and equitable treatment in public school education;

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, including public schools;

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools are committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse cultures represented within our communities as a cornerstone of creating inclusive learning environments;

WHEREAS, acknowledging the global diversity of students' heritages, races, ethnicities, and genders promotes understanding, tolerance, and an appreciation for differing backgrounds, enriching the educational experience for all students;

WHEREAS, New York City is an international city, and its students, families, and staff often experience global events firsthand or indirectly, bringing diverse perspectives to discussions of global and social issues;

WHEREAS, hate crime incidents in New York City increased by 59.3 percent between 2019 and 2023 with even higher growth statewide (87.5 percent), and in 2023, New York City accounted for 61.4 percent of reported hate crime incidents;

WHEREAS, New York City has witnessed a sharp increase in violence and harassment against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander population and the Jewish population in recent years;

WHEREAS, Asian-Americans have endured an 800% increase in hate crimes during and after COVID;

WHEREAS, Anti-Semitism increased 360% across the United States since 2023. In NYC alone, the first three months of 2024 had 96 Anti-Semitic hate crimes compared to 66 for the same time period the year prior. And in K-12 schools, incidents of Anti-Semitism increased by 135%;

WHEREAS, celebrating both months in May honors the many contributions of Jews and National Asian-American and Pacific Islanders to our schools, our community, and our nation;

WHEREAS, it has been reported in the community that some schools in our District have not provided displays and information addressing Jewish American Heritage during the month of May;

WHEREAS, it is essential to have a display in schools for Jewish American Heritage Month and National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and all other heritages celebrated in their respective months, showcasing the contributions, experiences, and cultural richness of these populations, because such a space provides an opportunity for students of all backgrounds to learn about and appreciate America's diversity, encourages dialogue, curiosity, and understanding, while promoting empathy and respect for different cultures and backgrounds;

WHEREAS, the designated display space should serve as a platform for educators to learn about and incorporate discussions and activities related to Jewish American and National Asian-American and Pacific Islander and other heritages into their curriculum, further enriching the learning experience and promoting cross-cultural appreciation;

WHEREAS, suppressing discussions about race, gender, national origin, or systemic inequities harms and disadvantages all students by failing to prepare them for participation in a diverse and democratic society. Inclusive curricula that highlight the contributions, cultural richness, and experiences of all backgrounds and communities foster empathy, respect, dialogue, and critical thinking;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Queens Community Board 6 encourages NYC Public Schools to further elevate and celebrate all heritages in our community, and specifically in the Month of May, Jewish American Heritage and National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage, by:

1. Embracing and implementing culturally responsive education, guided by the NYS Education Department and in alignment with the rights and protections afforded to students under federal and state law.
2. By requiring all schools to designate a centrally located and welcoming space to showcase meaningful displays that honor our students' heritages, ensuring they are easily accessible to all students and educators, that they do not discriminate against any heritage of our students, and continuing to maintain such spaces for cultural celebrations throughout the school year.
3. Providing accessible resources and guidance to support all NYC Public Schools in recognizing and uplifting these heritage months, alongside the full spectrum of cultural observances included in the DOE's social studies curriculum in a sustained and meaningful way throughout the year.
4. Ensuring the intentional lesson planning and implementation of this program at all grade levels.
5. Continuing to support and invest in inclusive education initiatives such as Hidden Voices that broaden students' perspectives, cultivate understanding, and deepen appreciation for the diverse cultural tapestry that defines and enriches our city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as exemplified in the work of this Community Board in the most diverse borough in the United States of America, we are requesting that our Congress Members Grace Meng and Gregory Meeks and our US Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand make known our Resolution in Congress. This will, in some way, show our continued commitment to the diversity and differences within our community.