



February 28, 2018

Christonya Brown, History and Social Science Coordinator
Office of Humanities and Early Childhood
Virginia Department of Education
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Dear Ms. Brown,

This year, at our request, the Institute for Curriculum Services reviewed materials that have been submitted for consideration by the state in the 2018 History and Social Science Textbooks and Instructional Materials Adoption. They have made recommendations, which we endorse, to correct errors and misleading information regarding Judaism and Jewish history.

The Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (serving Northern Virginia) appreciate the longstanding and fruitful relationship we have enjoyed with the Department of Education. As Jewish community relations organizations and Federations serving Virginia, we appreciate the rigorous review process you have put in place to ensure that our state adopts high quality instructional materials for our children. We welcome the opportunity to comment and do so in a spirit of partnership. As supporters of strong public schools, we want the very best for Virginia K-12 students so they have all the tools they need to succeed as good citizens of our state, country, and world.

The Institute for Curriculum Services (ICS), our partner, is a national initiative dedicated to promoting accurate instructional materials and instruction on Jews, Judaism, and Israel for K-12 students and works in partnership with Jewish organizations, publishers, and educators in Virginia and around the country. Its team employs a scholarly approach, applying a wealth of content knowledge and expertise in teaching, research, and curriculum mapping to its work.

The reviews address quality, accuracy, and balance. We believe that the Institute for Curriculum Services' recommended changes should be made in the interest of historical accuracy and consistency for the sake of Virginia's teachers and students. Students rely on the body of knowledge presented in classrooms to help them reason, problem solve, communicate, and navigate the information they will face in the future. We kindly request that the errors addressed in the attached reviews be corrected prior to the final disposition of the state adoption.

The reviews will arrive as attachments in several emails submitted to textbookcomment@doe.virginia.gov.

We know ICS looks forward to working with all of the publishers to make appropriate edits to the texts. We also ask that if and when issues are identified and corrected in textbooks, conforming edits are made to the corresponding ancillary materials so that students will not be presented with contradictory information.

ICS is also sending these reviews to the publishers as we all believe that, by and large, publishers share our goal of producing accurate and balanced instructional materials. In particular, we would like to thank Pearson and McGraw-Hill for the many improvements made to their textbooks based on earlier ICS recommendations. These have resulted in more accurate learning resources for Virginia students.

Thank you very much for your time, consideration, and dedication to ensuring high quality and accurate instructional materials during the final deliberations about materials considered for Virginia's 2018 Textbooks and Instructional Materials History and Social Science Adoption.

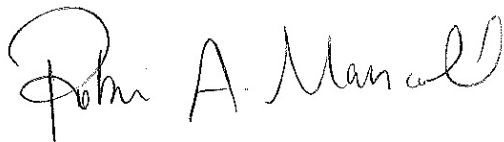
Yours sincerely,



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