



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: October 31, 2023

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Executive Directive Six – Combatting Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry and Protecting the Freedom to Worship in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

Earlier today, Governor Glenn Youngkin issued [Executive Directive 6](#) - Combatting Antisemitism and Anti-Religious Bigotry and Protecting the Freedom to Worship in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As the Governor affirmed in his directive, hate has no home in Virginia.

This week, the Virginia Department of Education will be working with local school divisions to help promote awareness and access to resources promoting the safety of all students from bigotry and the threat of harm. We encourage you to share these resources with your students, staff and families.

Additionally, the Department will be releasing resources for school divisions to help raise awareness of Virginia's strong stand against antisemitism, whether rhetorical or physical and whether against individuals or property, and to serve as a tool for the prevention of antisemitism and discrimination in all its contemporary forms.

Earlier this year, the Virginia General Assembly enacted clear language adopting the Working Definition of Antisemitism as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. This adoption was highlighted in the [August 31, 2023 edition of Virginia Education Update](#). Further resources will be provided to help school divisions spread awareness of Virginia's ongoing efforts to combat antisemitic discrimination in the Commonwealth.