



## Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR Office in Maryland

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July 21, 2025

Dr. Carey Wright  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Maryland State Department of Education  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Re: Concerns Over Social Studies Curriculum Rewrite and Erasure of Palestine

Dear Dr. Wright and Members of the Maryland State Board of Education,

I write to you on behalf of the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) to express our deep dismay and serious concerns regarding your recent revisions to Maryland's social studies standards, specifically the complete omission of Palestine from the statewide curriculum and the lack of meaningful consultation with Arab and Muslim communities throughout the decision process.

We are alarmed to learn that the committee tasked with these revisions did not include any representatives or advocates from Arab or Muslim communities—despite the central relevance of the curriculum changes to these very populations. This lack of representation constitutes a profound oversight and raises troubling questions about the inclusivity and equity of the curriculum development process.

Furthermore, the total erasure of Palestine—both in name and in historical context—from the updated curriculum is unacceptable. Such removal not only deprives students of a full understanding of global history and current events but also reinforces exclusionary narratives that marginalize entire communities, including Muslims and Christians, and their lived experiences.

This concern is especially pressing in light of the stated impetus for the update—combating rising antisemitism. While we unequivocally support efforts to address antisemitism in schools, this goal should never come at the expense of erasing other histories or voices. A truly inclusive anti-bias curriculum must reflect the diversity and complexity of global struggles for justice, including the history and experiences of the Palestinian people.

We respectfully request an immediate meeting with you and relevant members of the Board of Education to discuss the following urgent action items:

1. Reopen the curriculum development process to include Arab and Muslim scholars, educators, and advocates.
2. Restore accurate historical references to Palestine and ensure the "Israeli-Palestinian conflict" is taught in its full, accurate context spanning decades, including the Israeli government's ongoing genocide and campaign of forced famine in Gaza.

[Washington D.C.](#)

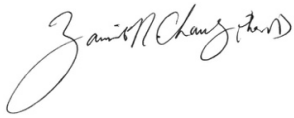
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3. Establish a formal advisory committee inclusive of impacted voices previously excluded—particularly Palestinians, Muslims, and Arabs—for all relevant curriculum revisions.
4. Publicly acknowledge this oversight and commit to prompt structural reforms that prevent similar occurrences in the future.

CAIR Maryland and the communities we serve stand ready to assist in creating a curriculum that fosters mutual understanding, critical thinking, and historical accuracy for all students. We hope you will treat this matter with the urgency and sincerity it demands.

Please let us know your availability for a meeting in the coming days. We look forward to your response and to an inclusive and equitable path forward.

Sincerely,



Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.  
Director, CAIR Maryland  
Council on American-Islamic Relations

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