

Antisemitic Incident Response Guide for Teachers

Recognize • Respond • Report • Follow Up

Every incident of antisemitism—whether subtle or overt—should be taken seriously. Early recognition, appropriate intervention, consistent reporting, and meaningful follow-up help create a safe, respectful learning environment for all students.

1. RECOGNIZE

Antisemitism may be intentional or unintentional. It can include stereotypes, slurs, derogatory jokes, Holocaust denial or distortion, swastikas or Nazi gestures, bullying, harassment, exclusion, conspiracy theories, coded language, vandalism, threats, or targeting Jewish students because they are Jewish or associated with Israel. It may also occur when students are expected to represent all Jews or defend Israel. **Consider the content, context, and impact—not just intent.**

2. RESPOND

Address incidents promptly, calmly, and clearly. **Interrupt the behavior, identify why it is inappropriate, and reinforce classroom expectations.** Focus on the impact rather than debating intent. Do not ask Jewish students to explain antisemitism, represent all Jews, or defend their identity. Appropriate responses include: "That statement repeats a harmful stereotype and is not acceptable here." If student safety is at risk, follow school emergency procedures and notify administration immediately.

3. REPORT

Document and report every incident, even if it appears minor. Follow school and district reporting procedures, notify the appropriate administrator, and record objective facts, including who was involved, what occurred, when, where, and any witnesses. Reporting helps identify patterns, support affected students, and strengthen prevention efforts. Schools and families are also encouraged to report incidents to the **Center for Jewish Resilience** for additional resources, trend tracking, and educational support.

4. FOLLOW UP

Supporting students does not end with reporting. Follow up with administration to ensure the incident has been addressed, check in privately with the targeted student, and monitor for retaliation or continued harassment. Reinforce expectations for respectful dialogue and inclusion, and seek additional educational resources when appropriate. Never place the responsibility for educating others or resolving the incident on Jewish students.

Report an incident to
Jewish Philanthropies of
Southern Arizona
Center for Jewish Resilience

