



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 17, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Teachers
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commission
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

January Is New Jersey Muslim Heritage Month

In recognition of [Joint Resolution No. 6](#) designating the month of January of each year as “Muslim Heritage Month” in the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Education would like to encourage all administrators and educators to highlight and celebrate the history and contributions of American Muslims.

New Jersey is home to nearly 300,000 American Muslims, representing one of the largest Muslim populations of any state in the United States. Muslim Heritage Month not only recognizes the rich cultural contributions of Muslims, but it is also an opportunity to promote the rich diversity of New Jersey, while encouraging a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all.

The following resources may assist administrators and educators in identifying activities and lessons to recognize Muslim Heritage Month:

- [Institute for Social Policy and Understanding \(ISPU\) Educators Toolkit](#) - Evidence-based resources built by expert scholars to help educators foster a safe learning environment for all students, notably those who are Muslim.
- [Muslim American Heritage Celebration](#) - This curriculum offers students an introduction to the rich and diverse Muslim experience in the United States, enabling students to explore the centuries-old presence of Muslims in North America as well as the ways Muslims have contributed to American society.
- [New Jersey Islamic Networks Group](#) - A non-profit educational organization that promotes tolerance and understanding of Islam and other religions through presentations and multi-faith panels to schools, that provides administrators and teachers with a reliable resource about the basic tenets of the Muslim faith, and to complement the study of Islam in the context of World History and Social Sciences.
- [American Muslims: A History Revealed Timeline](#) - This sample timeline contains illustrative events from 500 years of American history relating to the stories of American Muslims.

Contact information

For more information, please contact the Office of Standards at socialstudies@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group