



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 4, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: School Administrators, Principals, Teachers
From: Samantha Price, Assistant Commissioner
Legal and External Affairs
Deadline: October 1, 2024

Amistad Commission State-Wide Survey

The Amistad Commission (Commission) is charged to survey, design, encourage, and promote the implementation of education and awareness programs in New Jersey concerned with the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country, and the contributions of African- Americans in building our country (N.J.S.A- 52:16A-86, et seq). In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.43, every school district must include in their curriculum “instruction that infuses into all courses on the United States, the centuries of accomplishments by African- Americans in the building and development of America including, but not limited to, the areas of industry, military, government, and the professions: local communities; math, science, medicine, and space; architecture and the arts; social institutions and culture, and other aspects of life in America.”

Pursuant to N.J.S.A 52:16A-88b, the Commission is to develop workshops, institutes, seminars and other teacher training activities designed to educate teachers on this subject matter; and will be responsible for the coordination of events on a regular basis, throughout the State of New Jersey and provide appropriate memorialization of the events concerning the enslavement of Africans and their descendants in America as well as their struggle for freedom and liberty. This includes administering a survey to school districts to catalog the extent and breadth of education concerning the African slave trade, slavery in America, the vestiges of slavery in this country and the contributions of African Americans to our society presently being incorporated into the curricula and textbooks and taught in New Jersey schools.

Main Purpose

The goal of the survey is to inform the Commission on how school districts are meeting the mandates of the law for all courses on the United States to include instruction on the centuries of accomplishments by Africans and African Americans. The three-part survey will assess State-wide level awareness of the curricular requirements of the law; professional development exposure/participation in relation to the requirements in the law; and individual/school/district- based experiences with implementation of the Law. The results of the survey will help the Amistad Commission serve the needs of the K-12 educational community. The results from the survey will also be used to provide educators, schools, and districts with professional development, tools, and resources to help infuse the narrative and contributions of Africans and African Americans into the K-12 curriculum.

Additional Information

The Amistad State-Wide Survey is now [available online](#).

Contact Information

For questions or assistance, contact the Amistad Commission at (609) 376-3524 or Amistad@doe.nj.gov.

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