STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: November 18, 2026

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: District/School Administrators, Teachers

From: Ambrose Duckett
Chief Field Support and Services Officer/Assistant Commissioner
Field Support and Services

Deadline: February 1, 2027

Complete Statewide Survey on Amistad Law Implementation

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 as per N.J.S.A- 52:16A-86, et seq.

In addition, N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.43 requires that every school district 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."

As part of its charge, the Commission is responsible for:

- Developing workshops, institutes, seminars and other teacher training activities designed to educate teachers on this subject matter.
- Coordinatinge events on a regular basis, throughout the State of New Jersey.
- Providing appropriate memorialization of the events concerning the enslavement of Africans and their descendants in America as well as their struggle for freedom and liberty, and the African diaspora.
- 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 New Jersey school curricula, textbooks and classroom learning.

Complete the Statewide Survey
School districts and educators, please complete the Amistad Commission School Survey on Amistad Law Implementation 2026. It will close on February 1, 2027.

Additional Information
The goal of the survey is to inform the Commission on how school districts are meeting the mandates of the law for all courses in United States history to include instruction on the centuries of accomplishments by African Americans.

The three-part survey that is conducted every two years will assess State-wide level of 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 pre-K through 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 pre-K-12 curriculum.

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