

Dear Councilmembers,

I cannot in good conscience support a \$3,000,000 grant to MCPS with a goal of "Combating Hate" that excludes antisemitism from its purview. According to data from the Anti-Defamation League antisemitism rose [98% in Maryland from 2021 to 2022](#), and is on track to rise in 2023 to nearly [400% nationally since the Hamas attacks on Israel of October 7, 2023](#).

In accordance with this state and national data, Jewish students at MCPS are suffering from a barrage of antisemitic harassment and bullying. Jewish students now in MCPS schools are trying to learn in an environment confronting them with swastikas, Hitler salutes, thrown coins, vile slurs and epithets, allegations of deicide, and even the medieval myth of blood libel. The climate both in person and online is hostile and discriminatory.

Yet, MCPS is not including antisemitism among the forms of hate to be addressed in this latest appropriation. Until MCPS modifies its parameters for addressing school-based hatreds to include antisemitism, I object to this supplemental appropriation.

Sincerely yours,
Anne Rubinovitz
Administrative Team Member
Montgomery County Jewish Parent Coalition