



## Joint Statement Regarding Allegations about anti-Israel Curriculum in Newton Public Schools

November 6, 2013

We appreciate that many people have been concerned about a recent ad that appeared in the Newton Tab, the Jewish Advocate, and the Boston Herald alleging that a biased anti-Israel curriculum has been integrated into classes and programs in Newton Public Schools. Based on a careful review of the materials at issue by ADL and JCRC, there is substantial reason to believe that the allegations made in the ad are without merit. The ad misinterprets certain elements of the materials and lacks reasonable context. The Newton School Committee and its leadership have been responsive, and have addressed the questions posed to them in a thoughtful, constructive way. In contrast, the ad's sponsor declined our invitation to explain the allegations and answer questions about them, a decision that we regret.

We trust that this is reassuring to members of our community and that claims made against members of the Newton School Committee can now be put to rest. Israel faces many challenges. It is time for us to work together to meet them in a climate of respect and open discourse.

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