



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Jacob Oliva, Secretary

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ADE Observes Holocaust Education Week, Recognizes Outstanding Educator

Malvern educator Kendra Tallent recognized ahead of Holocaust Education Week with AHEAD stipend

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is observing the last week of January as Holocaust Education Week. Pursuant to Arkansas Code [A.C.A. § 6-16-154](#), Holocaust education is required to be taught in all public schools in a grade-appropriate manner for students in grades 5-12, addressing the causes, events, and consequences of the Holocaust.

To commence Holocaust Education Week, Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva joined the Arkansas Community Foundation on Friday, Jan. 23, to honor Kendra Tallent, an English Language Arts teacher at Glen Rose High School, as the recipient of the \$5,000 Arkansas Holocaust Education Award Donation (AHEAD) stipend. Tallent was recognized for her creative approach to connecting students with real historical events and for going above and beyond to ensure her students have access to high-quality, engaging history lessons despite barriers associated with a rural zip code.

“Teaching students about a very dark time in our world can feel heavy,” said Tallent. “When teaching the Holocaust, I try to emphasize that when one group is targeted, no one is truly safe. My goal is not just to create better students, but better humans who are empathetic and compassionate.”

Tallent was selected as a 2025 Alfred Lerner Fellow by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) and is incorporating the organization’s “How Was It Possible?” curriculum into her classroom and the Malvern High School History Club. With the AHEAD stipend, Tallent plans to elevate her teaching by providing students with a more tangible understanding of history, including a visit to a Holocaust museum in Dallas. Tallent exemplifies ADE’s commitment to investing in exceptional educators who serve students with limited access to high-quality educational experiences beyond the classroom.

“Holocaust education is vital to preventing a recurrence of these terrible events,” said Oliva. “Thanks to the Arkansas Legislature, public schools are required to teach the Holocaust and its consequences to students in grades 5-12. It takes skilled readers and dedicated educators like

Tallent to preserve history, honor the stories of survivors, and commemorate the lives tragically lost. That is one of the reasons why Arkansas continues to invest in both teachers and literacy.”

In 2021, Governor Asa Hutchinson signed Act 611 into law, requiring Holocaust education in Arkansas public schools. In 2023, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed [legislation](#) officially recognizing the last week of January as Holocaust Education Week. Jan. 27 marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The ADE has compiled Holocaust education resources in its Social Studies LiveBinder, which can be accessed [here](#).

For more information about the AHEAD Fund, visit their website at this [link](#).

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