



Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism (MSCCA) Higher Education Recommendations Overview for Colleges and Universities

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Background on the Commission

In November 2025, the [Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism \(MSCCA\)](#) released its [Final Report](#) following more than a year of expert testimony, public comment, and deliberation regarding the rise in antisemitism across the Commonwealth. The Report's recommendations, endorsed by the governor, the legislature, the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, and other state institutions, offer a roadmap for addressing antisemitism in various sectors. [The full report can be accessed here.](#)

The Commission heard extensive testimony from Jewish students, faculty, and staff describing experiences on college and university campuses. The Report outlines measures that colleges and universities across the Commonwealth should take to address systemic gaps in responding to antisemitism in higher education settings. While some of the recommendations are specific to addressing antisemitism, many can be applied more broadly to address bias of any form and promote more inclusive campus communities for all.

This document provides an overview of some of the key recommendations involving campuses and universities as primary stakeholders. Outlined below are steps to implement the recommendations, as well as resources to guide these efforts.

Please note: The recommendations highlighted below are only a small selection of those made to municipal and public safety officials in the full report. We encourage you to review the full [Higher Education](#) section of the report.



Key recommendations for colleges and universities

Bold text indicated direct language from the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism Report.

1

Colleges and universities should have a clear, transparent, and publicly available protocol for how a community member can report any incident of hate, bias, harassment, or discrimination to the school administration.

Clear and accessible reporting pathways ensure that antisemitic incidents are taken seriously and addressed consistently. When students, faculty, or staff do not know where to go or what will happen after they report an incident, they are less likely to come forward.

Institutions should make reporting processes easy to find, simple to use, and consistently communicated. Community members should understand what can be reported, what support is available, and how the institution will respond.

2

Colleges and university administrations should coordinate closely with local and state law enforcement agencies as well as campus police to assess risks, share intelligence, cooperate in relevant criminal investigations, and develop responsive security strategies to protect vulnerable populations of students, including but not limited to Jewish students.

Proactive coordination between campus leadership and law enforcement is essential to addressing threats of harassment, violence, and vandalism. Strong relationships allow institutions to respond more quickly and assess risk more effectively.

Partnership with Jewish students, faculty, and staff, as well as campus and community organizations, is critical to identifying concerns early and informing institutional response.

3

Colleges and universities should institute mandatory anti-bias education for all faculty, administrators, students, and trustees that specifically includes antisemitism education and training.

Mandatory anti-bias education that explicitly includes contemporary antisemitism helps ensure that campus communities understand how antisemitism appears and how to respond. The Commission highlights examples of institutions that have integrated antisemitism into anti-bias education and training. These include Brandeis University, Harvard University, Tufts University, Wellesley College, and Simmons College.

Training should prepare faculty, administrators, and students to recognize antisemitism, respond to incidents, and support those affected.

4

Colleges and universities in the Commonwealth should appoint or designate a Title VI Coordinator and/or establish a Title VI office responsible for overseeing the institution's compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and providing university-wide training on Title VI and other federal civil rights protections.

Jewish students have raised serious concerns about unclear reporting processes for bias-related complaints and inconsistent application of disciplinary measures. As such, the Commission recommended that institutions designate a Title VI Coordinator or office as a centralized point of accountability to oversee compliance, and coordinate training and institutional responses under federal civil rights law.

5

Academic institutions and affiliated organizations should refrain from participating in discriminatory academic boycotts that target individuals or institutions based on race, religion, national origin, or ancestry. Such boycotts may also be inconsistent with federal and state anti-discrimination laws and undermine the core principles of academic freedom. Colleges and universities should create and maintain safe, inclusive venues and forums that encourage open dialogue and discussion on diverse and often sensitive topics, including but not limited to issues related to antisemitism, religious identity, and international conflicts.

Structured opportunities for open dialogue are essential in higher education settings where difficult and often contentious issues are discussed. At the same time, academic boycotts and similar efforts that may target individuals or institutions based on protected characteristics can undermine principles of nondiscrimination and academic freedom. Debates related to academic boycotts, campus protests, and broader geopolitical issues have, at times, created confusion, exclusion, and tension on campuses, particularly when institutional policies are unclear or inconsistently applied.

Institutions should create and support forums, programming, and academic spaces that encourage respectful dialogue. Ongoing communication and engagement with Jewish students, faculty, and staff are critical to ensuring that these efforts reflect lived experience and build trust across campus communities.

A note to university leaders

Addressing antisemitism on campus requires more than policy alone. Sustained communication, education, open dialogue, and partnership with Jewish students, faculty, and campus professionals are essential to understanding campus climate and responding effectively. Institutions that maintain these relationships are better positioned to address challenges early and build trust across their communities.

The Commission's higher education recommendations set clear expectations for colleges and universities across the Commonwealth, while recognizing that meaningful progress depends on both institutional leadership and coordinated state support.

The Commission makes clear that campus efforts should not occur in isolation. These recommendations should be understood as part of a shared framework in which higher education institutional action is reinforced by statewide guidance, coordination, and accountability.

Please reach out to CJP's Center for Combating Antisemitism at cca-info@cjp.org for questions and/or partnership opportunities to implement the recommendations.



