



Learning from the Challenges of Our Time
9/11, Terrorism and the Classroom



SPONSORED IN
PARTNERSHIP BY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2009

**LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER, FAMILIES OF SEPTEMBER 11 AND
THE NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
DEVELOP CURRICULUM TO HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND
THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIMES: GLOBAL SECURITY, TERRORISM AND 9/11**

The 4 Action Initiative Will Launch Pilot of the Curriculum This Fall in New Jersey Schools

The 4 Action Initiative today announced that it will pilot its comprehensive classroom curriculum in New Jersey schools during the 2009/10 school year. The innovative curriculum, “Learning from the Challenges of Our Time: Global Security, Terrorism, and 9/11 in the Classroom,” will provide opportunities for children to explore the most challenging issues facing the world today. Twelve schools will serve as pilot sites throughout the state during this first phase of implementation. Over 150 lesson plans were developed by a team of volunteer curriculum-writers and educators who first met at a kickoff conference in July 2008.

“While it’s important to teach students about the specific events that occurred on September 11th, we felt strongly that lessons should go beyond commemorating the September anniversary date,” said Mary Ellen Salamone, a former President of Families of September 11 and one of the founders of the project.

The curriculum is divided into eight units for elementary, middle and high school students. The lessons contained within the units are constructed using age-appropriate content and resource materials. For example, third graders will not discuss global terrorism per se but hostile and frightening experiences that can happen on the playground.

The units are:

- Human Behavior
- Terrorism: From the Playground to the World
- An Historical Context of Terrorism
- 9/11/01: A Contemporary Case Study
- Challenges/Consequences post-9/11
- Remembrance and Public Memory
- Building a Better Future
- Resources

“Teachers are often hesitant to teach such a sensitive topic because it may bring up questions and concerns from students that are difficult to handle. But we can’t let those fears stop us,” said Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. “Our children must know about this important time in our nation’s history, in addition to how terrorism has affected people around the world.”

Training For Pilot Teachers to Be Held October 20th

Teachers in New Jersey schools who are interested in participating in the pilot should contact Dr. Paul Winkler at holocaust@doe.state.nj.us. The training is supported by a grant from the Investors Savings Bank Charitable Foundation.

ABOUT THE 4 ACTION INITIATIVE

The 4 Action Initiative was created early in 2008 to develop a school curriculum that tackled not only the events of September 11, but terrorism, its causes and consequences worldwide. The collaborating entities are: Families of September 11, Liberty Science Center and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

Families of September 11 was founded in October 2001 by relatives of those who died in the September 11 terrorist attacks. Its mission is to raise awareness about the effects of terrorism and public trauma and to champion domestic and international policies that prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist acts. More than 2,400 friends and family members of people killed on September 11 have joined the organization since its founding. Visit www.familiesofseptember11.org for more information.

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education promotes Holocaust education in the State of New Jersey. The Commission surveys the status of Holocaust Education; designs, encourages and promotes the implementation of Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; provides programs in New Jersey; and coordinates designated events that will provide appropriate memorialization of the Holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state. Visit www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust for more information.

Dedicated to providing transformative experiences that connect schools and society with science and technology, *Liberty Science Center* is the New Jersey-New York City region's largest education resource. Motivated by an innovative philosophy and enabled by a \$109 million expansion and renewal, Liberty Science Center is bringing the excitement of science to students, educators, families and adults in engaging new ways and establishing a progressive benchmark for the science center field. Visit www.lsc.org to learn more about Liberty Science Center, located in Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ.

###

Contact:

Dr. Paul B. Winkler, Executive Director, New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, 609-292-9274

Donna Gaffney, Families of September 11 Advisory Board, 908-370-8584