

Youth Commission Meeting

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:30pm
Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/YAP
1730 Oregon St. Berkeley, CA 94703

The Commission may discuss any items listed on the agenda, but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. Call to Order (Chair):
2. Roll Call (Secretary):
3. Approval of Agenda (Chair):
4. Approval of Minutes for December 8th, 2025 (Chair):
5. Public Comments (2 min):
6. Chair's Announcements (Chair)
7. Director's Report
8. Discussion: Survey results
9. Discussion: Letter
10. Discussion: Work Plan
11. Discussion: Merch
12. Adjourn:

Commission Information: The Youth Commission packet is available for review at both the Berkeley Main Library and the Park Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3rd Floor, during normal business hours. If you have questions, contact Commission Secretary, Ginsi K. Bryant, at 981-6678 or by email at gbryant@berkeleyca.gov or Co Secretary, Jasmine Gunn-Vaca, at 981-6671 or by email at jgunnvaca@berkeleyca.gov

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SB343 Disclaimer: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Parks

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Youth Commission Members

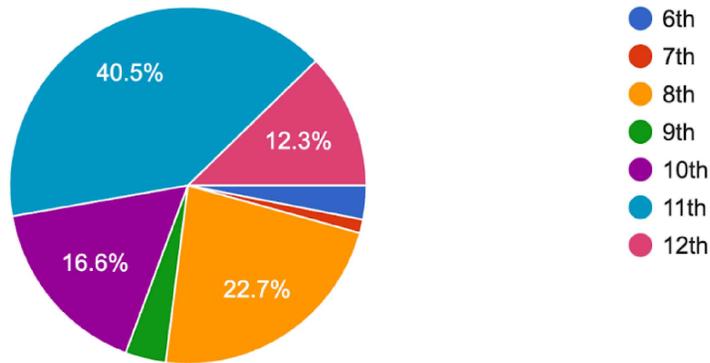
| District | Name | District | Name |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Mayor | Hannah Slattery Weisberg | BUSD/Brown | Vacant |
| Kesarwani | Monique Hightower-Gaskin | BUSD/Shanoski | Vacant |
| Taplin | Reece Fong | BUSD/Babbitt | Karim Meleis |
| Bartlett | Diya Patel | BUSD/ Chang | Vacant |
| Tregub | Joshua Swift Rawal | BUSD | Kiara Hugues |
| Hahn | Ida Marshall-Lappe | BUSD | Vacant |
| Wengraf | Maia Astera | BUSD | Vacant |
| Lunaparra | Thea Lutzker | BUSD | Vacant |
| Humbert | Yoshi Robn | BUSD | Vacant |

Mission Statement

The Berkeley Youth Commission identifies the needs of youth, reviews and recommends youth services and recreation programs.

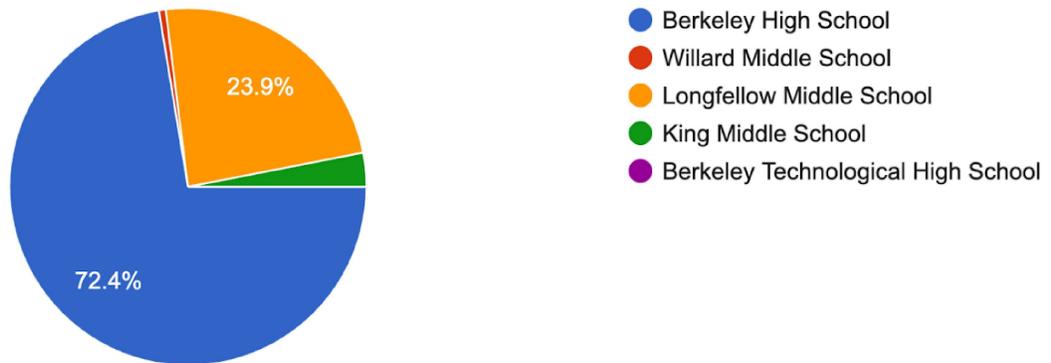
Grade

163 responses



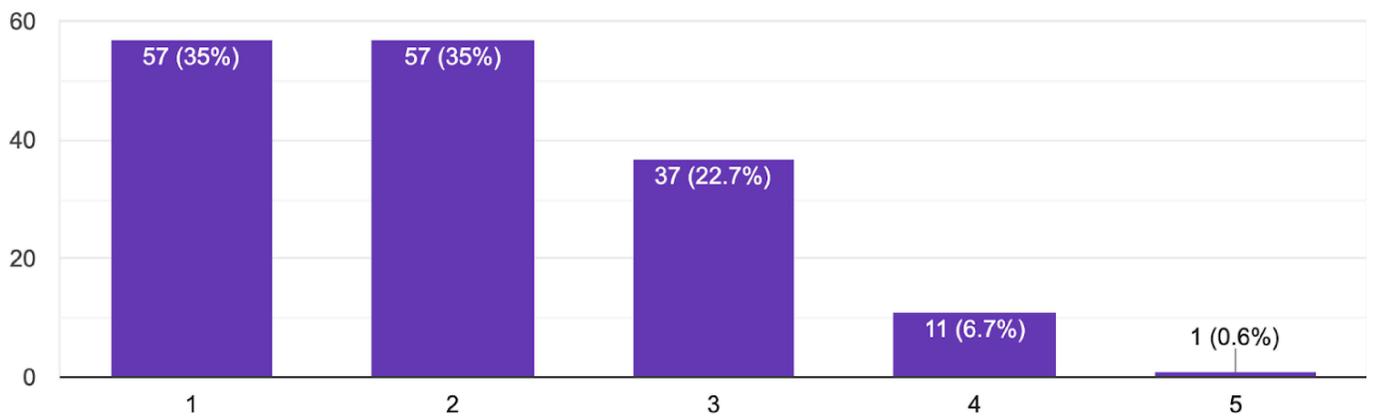
School

163 responses



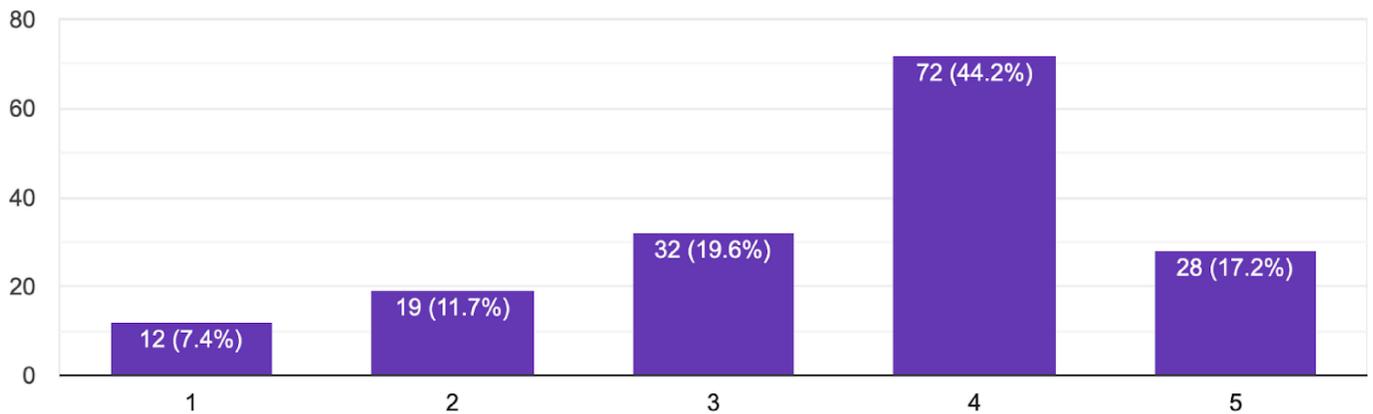
How much have you learned about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in school

163 responses



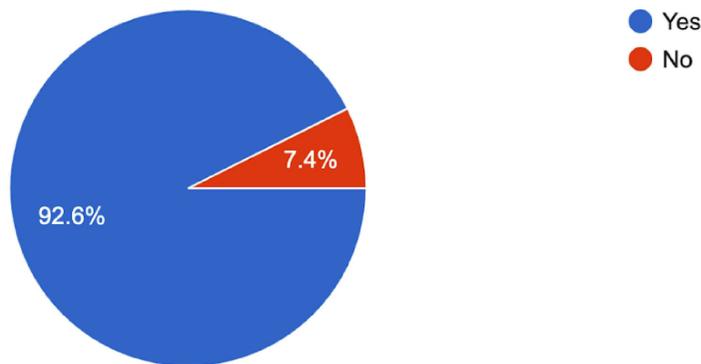
How much have you learned about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict from social media

163 responses



Would you like to learn more about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in school (specifically in ethnic studies/ history classes)

163 responses



If not, how come?:

- I already learned about in history and the background to it.
- I hate Israel the country
- I don't feel like it could be taught impartially or fairly at all.
- its too intense and why wouldnt we learn about the ukrainian russian war too it is underrepresented
- The classes taught at Berkeley high and in Berkeley school in general HIGHLY favors the narrative that Israel has no right to exist, which is extremely antisemitic and pushes a hateful curriculum, while educating students who are unaware of the conflict in a dangerous and clearly biased way. The class should either be entirely reworked or not taught at all and I find it ridiculous that the BUSD continues to promote hate through education like this.
- Because it always turns into an unproductive conversation
- idk
- I personally think it would be cool to learn about
- Nothing against the countries or nothing but like I just kind of want to move on like not in just move on and forget about them like it's sad and the situation and what's happening is sad but I just don't want to have to think about it also because I've seen a lot of post about people covered in blood and stuff so yea
- The coverage of recent events has always felt sufficient enough to me. If students have further interest in learning about the conflict, they can easily do research on their own, but it doesn't need to take up class

time.

- Its very disturbing and I would not like to see such troubling matters in school
- There are more relevant topics, Israel is talked about too much
- Because it's not history it's current events

What would make you feel comfortable learning about this topic? (optional)

- No bias
- Teachers being able to approach the subject without fear of repercussions from false claims of things like antisemitism.
- Yes because then it would leave less room for speculation or misinformation spreading.
- Yes it's an important topic to learn about
- Idk
- If teachers could somehow guarantee they were impartial and no one could hedge your opinions
- Learning about Ukrainian-Russian war as well they are both important
- No biasness
- Politically neutral and unbiased information as much as possible
- Talking about it with friends and groups
- If it was taught equitably. The lessons are incorrect, and leave out important information and details about the conflict, which are purposefully left out to favour one side clearly. It's ridiculous and I hope the people reading this will understand that.
- Real facts, unbiased, Palestinian voices getting heard as well. Being able to learn about Palestine without being accused of antisemitism.
- I think starting off learning about the facts before getting into any debate type of conversation, because those can get very emotional with a lot of wrong information being said, especially if you are getting a lot of info from social media. So primarily starting with facts and then possibly going into debate of people wanted to.
- If teachers remained impartial and did not target students on either side
- When they taught it in freshman year for a week it was heavily one-sided and a preferable way to do it would be bring in a neutral specialist who can actually answer all the questions
- Respect!
- If there wasn't so much hate around it.
- People not being so polarized
- I don't know I feel like the teachers would make it a comfortable learning place where we can tell our thoughts and feelings
- Probably mainly if we don't have to watch any exclusive content like I said like I could stand blood but not when people get like shot or bombed or nothing
- I don't really know
- Both sides being evaluated?
- I don't need anything to feel comfortable with it.
- Having a lot of room for open discussion
- I think it is completely unfair to not be teaching Palestine in school because this is real, it is happening, people are suffering, and we are not learning about it and what is actually happening and how Jewish people are not to blame because their government is doing this and the people of Palestine should not be blamed because it is a group called Hamas that is fighting Israel not the innocent people who die every day to the bombs dropped by Israel. WE DESERVE TO KNOW
- Kinda
- I think having teachers that are trying to teach through a neutral lens would be best. I know people tend to get upset when a teacher is teaching with a clear bias one way or another.
- If everyone had an open mind to know perspectives
- Knowing that my teachers will not be targeted and harassed for teaching very basic history
- An uncensored curriculum that isn't watered down at all and has good class discussions. The content should cover current events in addition to as much history and context as possible.
- The objective truth not opinions
- I think people being willing to having more open discussions about it instead of immediately taking sides or shutting the conversations down. I feel there is like a stigma around talking about it that needs to be fixed before we can have meaningful and productive conversations and learn about it.
- Palestinian heritage taught as well as clarification that it's not Jewish people persecuting Gaza it's the government
- Probably my friends and like a good teacher
- A safe environment with clear guidelines up front of how conversation and learning be structured, as well

as room for dialogue.

- not showing a lot of bias towards one side. talking about it neutrally
- I want to hear both sides of the story. I would like to be educated on the entire conflict not one side. I would like my learning to be as much of the full story as possible and I would like to learn about from the beginning to the end.
- If it is not biased.
- Less overt pro-Palestine bias (ie slideshow backgrounds, teachers wearing political pins)
- an unbiased teaching of the facts of the war and a place for students to share their thoughts and opinions
- No teacher opinions during lessons
- If the teachers would stop trying to water it down or stop talking from a Zionist standpoint
- Biased opinion and a judgment free environment
- Learning about it in a more kid-friendly way