



AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

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To Whom it May Concern

As an Orthodox Rabbi, with a lifetime career in Jewish education and a deep commitment to both the spiritual and political health of the Jewish community, I stand firmly behind the sensitively crafted and vitally important curriculum designed by the National Council for Bible Curriculum in Public Schools (NCBCPS).

From cover to cover, NCBCPS's curriculum overflows with rich, informative lessons from both the *Tanakh* (Old Testament), as well, of course from the New Testament. I am delighted that the curriculum begins with an entire semester focused solely on the *Tanakh*. Students examine famous figures like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses, as well as Jewish Bible-based laws and customs that are part of the Jewish holidays, customs and traditions still celebrated today.

Adding to the historical review of the Hebrew nation – from its pre-Babylonian era to its birth and development as a nation – NCBCPS accurately relates the timeless principles and practical applications gleaned from nearly 3,000 years of ancient Jewish wisdom. America's Jewish community can feel both proud and grateful to live in a country in which this kind of information is available to all through public education.

I know that this curriculum will richly prepare students for future U.S. Government, History and Civics courses because of certain similarities between ancient Israel and modern America. Just as ancient Israel arrived in the Promised Land with nothing but a set of Biblically-based ideas and proceeded to carve a civilization out of a wilderness, so did America's first settlers and Founding Fathers. They crossed an ocean clinging to the timeless truths of the Bible and ultimately established a great nation, undergirded by those same principles.

I highly recommend this curriculum to every school board and teacher, who desires to enrich the lives of the students under their care and can be reached for further elucidation as needed.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Daniel Lapin
American Alliance of Jews and Christians
www.aajc.org

"The people of the United States come nearer to a parallel with Ancient Israel, than any other nation upon the globe."
New England Pastor, Aviel ("God is my Father" in Hebrew) Abbot, in 1799.