CAIR NEW JERSEY

AMERICA'S LARGEST ISLAMIC CIVIL LIBERTIES AND ADVOCACY GROUP

July 9, 2025

Dear New Jersey State Board of Education and Municipal Boards of Education across New Jersey,

The New Jersey chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ) writes to commend the recent decision by the National Education Association (NEA) to end its affiliation with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). We respectfully urge all Boards of Education across New Jersey to take similar action by reviewing and ending any formal or informal partnerships with the ADL and removing ADL-produced materials from New Jersey's public education system.

The NEA's decision, supported by its 7,000-member Representative Assembly, reflects widespread concern over the ADL's longstanding record of undermining racial and social justice efforts. Specifically, the ADL has perpetuated anti-Palestinian bias, misused accusations of antisemitism to silence legitimate human rights advocacy, and actively opposed movements like Black Lives Matter and the South African anti-apartheid struggle—movements that educators and students across New Jersey deeply support.
The ADL has also:

- Equated peaceful student protesters with terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda,
- Platformed notorious anti-Muslim hate figures,
- Downplayed hate crimes against Palestinian Americans,
- Pressured universities and institutions to censor speech around Palestinian freedom.

These actions run counter to the values our state's education system professes—equity, anti-racism, truth, and inclusion. Continued reliance on or endorsement of the ADL in any educational capacity sends a harmful message to Black, Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students and educators: that their identities and struggles are not recognized or respected.

The NEA has paved the way for morally grounded leadership. As the body responsible for safeguarding the integrity and inclusivity of our public schools, the New Jersey State Board of Education is now uniquely positioned to follow suit. Ending the relationship with the ADL is not merely a symbolic gesture—it is a vital and necessary commitment to justice, transparency, and care in public education.

We urge you to launch an open, community-centered review of all relationships and materials affiliated with the ADL and to take decisive action in alignment with New Jersey's values of social justice and educational equity. CAIR-NJ stands ready to partner with you to identify alternative resources and organizations that uphold the safety and dignity of all students and educators.

Thank you for your time and commitment to New Jersey's educators and students.

Sincerely,

Mousa Naji

**Mousa Naji**
**Advocacy & Community Relations Coordinator**