

## Future Directions

We have just commissioned research to better understand the barriers to entry to full-day Jewish education for families. Please visit [www.ujafedny.org/publications](http://www.ujafedny.org/publications) to download a copy of *To Go or Not To Go: Perceptions of Jewish Day Schools Among Non-Orthodox Parents in Manhattan and Long Island*. Moving forward, we are strengthening existing programs and continue to support and learn from the extensive community of Jewish educators, day school advocates, and educational experts in New York, in Israel, and across North America. Join us as we all strengthen Jewish education together.



Caring for those in need,  
rescuing those in harm's way,  
and renewing and strengthening  
the Jewish people in New York,  
in Israel, and around the world.

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# Strengthening Jewish Education in Day Schools and Yeshivas



UJA-Federation of New York's service area — New York City, Long Island, and Westchester — is home to the largest concentration of Jewish day schools, yeshivas, and Jewish children outside of Israel. Our community includes nearly 300 Jewish schools of diverse sizes, cultures, and religious orientations, with more than 100,000 students and almost 10,000 educators in full-time K-12 educational settings. The scope of this enterprise is a fundamental challenge, yet we are determined in our efforts to achieve excellence throughout the system. Our annual allocation to day schools and yeshivas is our largest targeted grant in Jewish education.

This brochure provides an overview of the span of our commitment to New York-area day schools and yeshivas. Even as we take pride in our accomplishments, we continue to work toward greater impact.

On an annual basis, through the Fund for Jewish Education and with the Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Life Monument Funds, we maintain an educator benefits program that subsidizes the cost of medical insurance, provides pensions, and covers every qualified teacher with a life insurance policy.

As a founding member of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), we give New York-area schools access to the best national resources currently available in Jewish education. Our support of local central agencies — the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York (BJE) and SAJES, which builds Jewish education on Long Island — complements our collaboration by providing targeted expertise in the field.

Alongside these core programs, UJA-Federation of New York funds specific initiatives to enhance the quality of educational leadership in schools and increase social services for students. We believe that educational excellence requires superior professionals and volunteers. Current offerings recognize the diversity of schools as well as the complexity of the educational process. There are opportunities for all levels and stages of leadership.



## Professional Development for Educators

**The Institute for Day School Management (IDSM)** with Columbia University's Business School of Executive Education brings the highest level of training to Jewish day school leaders. Outstanding instructors teach strategic planning with a specifically tailored curriculum, focusing on such skills as financial management, conflict negotiation, fund development, marketing, public relations, and personal leadership. This program is designed for principals, heads of school, *menahelim*, or headmasters. [For more information, visit www.ujafedny.org/jdsm](http://www.ujafedny.org/jdsm) or call 1.646.472.5328.

**Torah Umesorah–National Society for Hebrew Day Schools *Chevras Yesud Ma'aloh*** fellowships for principals provide an opportunity to study instructional leadership in the context of the Judaic studies (*Limudei Kodesh*) curriculum in yeshivas and day schools. There are two program divisions: The New York Regional Fellowship for Principals of Girls Schools, for women in the New York metropolitan area, conducted weekly; and The National Fellowship for Principals of Boys Schools, conducted during a series of intensive retreats for men. This program is designed for principals (*menahalos* and *menahalim*) and experienced teachers (*moros* and *rebbeim*). [For more information, call 1.845.356.2961.](http://www.ujafedny.org)

**The Lookstein Center's Educational Leadership Advancement Initiative (ELAI)** trains educators for leadership positions in New York schools, with two specialized tracks to enhance professional skills and prepare educators for future work.

ELAI includes retreats, a seminar in Israel, personal mentoring, and a school-based project, and is designed for such Jewish education professionals as teachers, department chairs, assistant principals, and guidance personnel. [For more information, visit www.lookstein.org/elai.](http://www.lookstein.org/elai)

**Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP)**, recognizes the challenge many schools face in training and retaining excellent teachers. JNTP mentors first- and second-year teachers to develop as reflective practitioners, improve student achievement, and accelerate teacher growth. JNTP uses a mentoring system with professional teaching standards, data collection and analysis, and self-assessment, all provided either by experienced teachers at participating schools or visiting mentors. This program is designed for new teachers and experienced teachers to become familiar with staff development methods. [For more information, call 1.646.695.5090.](http://www.ujafedny.org/jntp)

## Social Services for Students, Parents, and Families

**Partners in Caring in Day Schools** is a UJA-Federation initiative that provides a comprehensive approach for social-service provision in day school and yeshiva settings to address health and mental-health issues. Professionals from UJA-Federation beneficiary agencies will address challenges facing children and adolescents, such as eating disorders, substance abuse, bullying, and special-needs information and referral through psycho-educational groups, parent education and workshops, and individual school-based counseling. Additionally, teachers will be trained to identify and address social, emotional, and cognitive issues. [For more information, call 1.212.836.1762.](http://www.ujafedny.org/pic)

## Day School Community Resources

**The Fund for Jewish Education (FJE)** is supported by UJA-Federation of New York and the Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Life Monument Funds. Since its founding in 1978, this historic collaboration, supplemented with additional funds from each organization and private donors, has provided an unprecedented level of support for the educational institutions of New York's Jewish community, distributing more than \$120 million to advance Jewish education in the New York area. FJE's signature program is its Educator Benefits program, which reaches more than 6,300 educators in more than 200 schools. Educator Benefits includes life insurance for all full-time educators, partial reimbursement of health insurance, and a pension program. Over the years, additional funds from FJE have helped schools provide special-needs education, outreach to immigrants, Jewish family education, and seed money for new schools. [For more information, call 1.212.757.1500.](http://www.ujafedny.org/fje)

**Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York (BJE)** and **SAJES**, the central Jewish educational agency of Long Island, both receive funding from UJA-Federation to provide direct services to area day schools, including professional training, consulting, curriculum development, student health services, school food services, and special-needs education. In addition, BJE supports day school education through advocacy and the leveraging of government funding for special education, technology, and general-studies libraries and resource materials. [For more information, visit www.bjeny.org](http://www.bjeny.org) and [www.sajes.org](http://www.sajes.org)

Since its inception 11 years ago, **The Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE)** has been supported by UJA-Federation of New York. Together, we strive toward the goal of sustaining competitive, high-quality day schools in order to build a strong literate Jewish community. This past year, PEJE reached out to dozens of schools in New York, offering such services as grant-management assistance, coaching, conferences, publications, and research. Stipends are available for the biennial PEJE Assembly for Jewish Day School Education. [For more information, visit www.peje.org](http://www.peje.org) or call 1.617.367.0001.

**The Rose Biller Day School Scholarship Fund** will allocate \$1 million annually to support 200 Jewish day school and yeshiva students with \$5,000 awards toward the cost of their school tuition. Studies demonstrate that adults who received Jewish day school education as children report dramatically higher levels of Jewish connection, affiliation, identity, and philanthropy than those with any other combination of educational experiences. These awards will be given to schools and designated for poor families and students who transfer into Jewish schools without significant formal training in Judaic studies. [For more information, visit www.ujafedny.org/billerdayschoolfund.](http://www.ujafedny.org/billerdayschoolfund)

