

ECE Mentor Teacher Program

FAQs



What is the ECE Mentor Teacher Program?

The ECE Mentor Teacher Program is an opportunity for educators from BJE-affiliated Early Childhood Centers to learn how to be successful mentor teachers, concurrently mentor a teacher within their school site, become part of a cohort of educators, and receive on-going support as they become established mentor teachers within their institution. Participants will commit to a two-year program to begin their mentoring journey.

Participants will enroll in American Jewish University's (AJU) Jewish Education Excellence Project (JEEP): Mentor Teacher Training for the 2024-2025 school year. The program consists of a 10 month certification program earning 3 academic units. The program begins with a 3-day intensive workshop from August 6-8, 2024 then the cohort will physically meet once a month. Each participant also has a remote monthly one-on-one session with the AJU faculty.

Following the initial year (2024-2025), participants will form a Community of Practice with BJE staff for the 2025-2026 school year. The CoP will support participants as they continue to mentor a teacher within their school and offer professional development towards creating a "mentoring culture" at their school.

Why participate in the ECE Mentor Teacher Program?

As we professionalize the field of Jewish Early Childhood Education, we aim to elevate the incredible workforce of early childhood educators who have devoted time and energy to their profession. These educators make prime candidates to become mentor teachers within their schools so they can remain in the classroom while also gaining an increased role within their institution, relieving strains on administration, and supporting newer educators in need of mentoring.

Who should apply to the ECE Mentor Teacher Program?

Mid-career educators who have been in the field for more than 7 years, have an interest in professional education at a university level, and have a desire to support newer teachers should consider applying. Any educator who is interested in participating in the ECE Mentor Teacher Program should consult their school administration to make sure the school supports introducing a mentoring culture.

How many participants will be accepting into the program?

BJE is excited to offer this opportunity to an initial cohort of up to 12 participants. While only one participant from each school will be accepted into the program, if schools would like additional teachers to attend AJU's JEEP: Mentor Teacher Training, they are welcome to enroll through AJU and there is some additional funding that can be applied for through AJU.

What other expectations will there be of the participants?

Participants of the Mentor Teacher Program will be expected to complete the following:

- Commit to participate in the BJE Cohort for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.
- Attend all required sessions for AJU's Mentor Teacher Training Program, as determined by AJU, during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Complete any required written assignments from AJU, including self-reflections and formal goal setting.
- Attend an in-person BJE gathering to transition into the Community of Practice for the upcoming year.
- Participate in BJE's Community of Practice meetings at least 1x/month during the 2025-2026 school year (approximately 8 meetings).
- Meet at least 3x per year with their school administration to share their learning and create a plan for mentoring within their school, including deciding who their mentee should be, reflecting on the mentoring experience, and developing plans for creating a culture of mentoring within their school.
- Complete all evaluation/impact surveys on a timely basis including requests for quotes about their experience.

What expectations will there be of the schools the participants are from?

Schools will be required to show their support of their educator participating in the program by filling out an application at the same time as the participant. School administrators must help decide the appropriate mentee for the mentor teachers and agree to meet with their teacher participating in the program at least three a year to reflect on their experience, discuss how the mentoring is going within the school, and make plans for the future. The school must also agree to release the educator from teacher responsibilities to attend any programming related to the ECE Mentor Teacher Program that may occur during regular working hours.

What is the cost to participate?

BJE and AJU will each contribute \$500 towards the \$2500 AJU mentor course tuition, leaving a participant fee of \$1500. BJE will pay the full cost of the second year of the program.

How do you apply to BJE's Mentor Teacher Program?

There is a two-part BJE application for candidates to the program. One needs to be completed by the educator interested in participating in the program. A second application needs to be completed by the educator's school administrator, ideally ECC Director, who oversees the educator. Additionally, applicants must register directly with AJU for admission into their training program. Applications must be received by June 1, 2024.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to Carly Rosenstein, Director, Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Education, crosenstein@bjela.org, 323-761-8623.