

Thank you for being a Builder of Jewish Education!

Your support enables BJE to provide Jewish educators and children with innovative approaches, cutting-edge skills, essential resources, and transformative educational programs to help them flourish. Your donations help BJE continually enhance the quality of, increase access to, and encourage participation in Jewish education throughout Greater Los Angeles.

Thank you!

Building Stronger Classrooms: Training Mentor Teachers



Mentor Teachers are experienced educators who help prepare and advance the next generation of teachers by modeling, coaching, and supporting newer educators. In Fall 2024, educators from BJE-affiliated early childhood programs began the second year of their training as the first cohort to enroll in a special partnership between BJE and American Jewish University's (AJU) Mentor Teacher Training program.

Additionally, BJE launched a second cohort of educators who completed a 3-day summer intensive at AJU and are now actively participating in the first year of the program. BJE established this program – which extends AJU's Mentor Teacher Training to a second year of learning and collaboration supported by BJE professional staff -- to help address the challenge of teacher recruitment and retention in Jewish early childhood programs.

BJE Selected for National Initiative on Mental Health & Wellbeing in Religious Schools

After three years of providing advanced training in Positive Education to educators from 30 BJE-affiliated schools (including day schools, early childhood education centers, and part-time religious schools), BJE's Religious School Educators Network was invited to join a national cohort of communities engaged in this work through the Jewish Education Project's National Flourishing Initiative.

The two-year program brings together directors from 17 Religious Schools who are committed to the work of supporting mental health and wellbeing in their school communities. The training includes 14 hours of in-person workshops per year, a webinar series, and local touch points. Almost all expenses are covered by JEP and BJE.



BJE Presents: Parent Education

One important focus of BJE's five-year Strategic Plan is increasing direct support for parents through new educational services and resources. Last fall, BJE launched this effort with two parent webinars led by education experts – *Time for Preschool* and *Choosing a Jewish Private School*. In each session, BJE professional staff spoke about the wide range of options, the application process, affordability, and much more. The programs help bring BJE's breadth and depth of knowledge to the larger community, increasing awareness of BJE and providing parents and grandparents with essential guidance at a time of increased need for information and learning.



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Strengthening Student Wellbeing & Special Needs Services at L.A. Day Schools

In the period since October 7, 2023, BJE has increased its programs for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Jewish day schools, reflecting both the growing need for schools to address students' social-emotional wellbeing, and the role BJE continues to play as a central educational community resource. This has included bringing Positive Education and Responsive Classroom training to educators. Both programs specifically address students' mental health and wellness.

BJE also convenes a special networking group of student support services professionals. With ongoing input from educators, the partnership between day schools and BJE continues to help bring the best resources and most creative solutions to the mental health challenges and special learning needs facing students, families and educators across L.A.'s Jewish community.



Building Joyful Classrooms: BJE Empowers Educators with Responsive Classroom Training



In August, BJE held a full-day Responsive Classroom training session for its Religious School Educators Network (RSEN). With high faculty turnover since the pandemic, religious school directors felt that new teachers would benefit from training in classroom management.

Responsive Classroom is an organization that offers a student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline. It is comprised of a set of research and evidence-based practices designed to create safe, joyful, and engaging classrooms and school communities for both students and teachers. The demand from schools was profound; the training was limited to 36 available spaces, and it filled in one day. BJE covered program costs, so schools were only responsible for their teachers' time and lunches.

Holocaust Education for Camp Counselors-in-Training

In July, BJE's March of the Living staff and Holocaust Survivor Gabriella Karin spent an afternoon with Counselors-in-Training at Camp Alonim. Gabriella shared her story, which she has shared for many years on BJE's March of the Living trips.

This past May, Gabriella travelled to Poland with 130 teens from high schools across L.A., as part of BJE's 2024 delegation to the International March of the Living. Gabriella continues to share her experiences and lessons learned as often as she can. At Camp Alonim, 63 teens had the opportunity to learn from Gabriella and BJE staff.

