

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!

BJE Creates New Israel Curriculum for a New World

Even before the October 2023 terror attacks and war in Gaza, BJE had begun working with its network of directors of part-time religious schools on approaches to deepening students' knowledge about Israel – its history, struggles, geography, and culture -- to better prepare them to engage in contemporary Israel conversations. In 2024-2025, BJE engaged two nationally respected curriculum writers to develop a series of Israel education lessons for students in grades two & three; these lessons were piloted at numerous schools in the Spring. Lessons for students in grades four & five and six & seven will follow, in 2025-2026. By next Spring, BJE expects to have a full bank of 18 lessons for students in grades 2 through 7 available to all BJE-affiliated Religious Schools.



School Directors: Real Focus on Artificial Intelligence

In March, BJE hosted 50+ administrators from BJE-accredited day schools for a day of professional training from leading experts in technology, digital



literacy, A.I., Jewish education, business and school leadership. The keynote address, "A.I., Education, and the Jewish Future: Embracing Innovation with Purpose" by digital workplace expert Malka Kaztin, set the tone for a day devoted to exploring the pitfalls and possibilities of A.I. in schools. A range of workshops focused on topics including teaching in A.I.-enhanced classrooms, leveraging A.I. in school administration, and crafting ethical and effective A.I. guidelines for schools.

New and Notable at BJE's Early Childhood Institute

BJE's 2025 Bebe Feuerstein Simon Early Childhood Institute drew 650+ educators for a day of learning, skills building and professional growth. A new Infant/Toddler Track was added this year for educators who work with children aged 0-24 months, including Parent & Me educators. With 140 teachers participating, BJE's support in this area will undoubtedly continue to grow. Also, this year, to help schools apply their learning from the Institute, BJE received a special grant from the Rodan Family Foundation that enabled participating schools to apply for micro-grants to build on conference learning, embedding lessons learned in school classrooms. Grants were awarded to 21 schools for a variety of proposed uses, including purchasing new books, materials or equipment, or hiring professional facilitators to conduct educator training in approaches introduced at the conference.



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Helping Students Flourish in Challenging Times

BJE has continued providing advanced educator training to help students thrive in a turbulent world. In May, as part The Flourishing Initiative, a BJE cohort of directors of part-time religious schools spent two days in person exploring Jewish, scientific, and educational approaches to flourishing and growth through content-rich, evidence-based practices. The expert training was led by Rabbi David Levy of The Jewish Education Project. This program builds on BJE's ongoing response since 2018 to a rising youth mental health crisis, which has only been heightened over the past few years by the pandemic, October 7th attacks and ensuing war in Israel, rise in antisemitism, and recent L.A. wildfires.



BJE Teens March and Learn in Poland

In April, BJE led a delegation of 27 L.A. high school seniors from eight schools on an extended program of travel and experiential learning in Poland. BJE's March of the Living program typically also includes Israel. This year, due to the war in Gaza, the Poland-only itinerary was expanded with additional sites and opportunities for travel and learning. In addition to the educators and historians who traveled with the delegation, BJE's teen participants were extremely fortunate to be joined by a Holocaust survivor as well as by the daughter of a survivor who shared their stories with the teens.



Parent Education

In June, BJE presented its final Parent Education webinar of the school year. The focus: how genetic testing can provide life-saving information for Jewish families. Natalie Richeimer, a board-certified genetic counselor, led a discussion about cancer prevention and early detection.

