



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER HOUSTON

# 2025/26 IMPACT REPORT *Education*

## FedFacts

The Federation provides **nearly \$1,000,000** to early childhood and day schools.

1,095 students  
in 10 Early Childhood Schools

1,723 students  
in 20 Congregational Schools

1,797 students  
in 8 Day Schools



550 teachers  
participated in  
professional  
development programs



8 education networks  
provide collaboration for  
80 members



**Want to learn more about our Jewish education programs  
or learn how you can contribute?**

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## A FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Our work in education includes the whole of the Houston Jewish community. The audiences served are varied and include formal education for students, adult education, and connections to Israel.

Through its Annual Campaign, the Federation supports students, families, and educators from early childhood through high school. We partner with early childhood centers, day schools, and congregational schools and offer professional development, educator degree support, and networks for professionals to connect. Last year, we also allocated nearly \$1 million to 13 local day schools and early childhood schools.

Our teen initiatives include Kehillah High and immersive Israel experiences. And through programs like Schlichim and educator trips, we also bring Israel education to life, fostering Jewish identity, connection, and a sense of belonging for all learners.

A newer aspect of our work is the Inclusion Program. During our Hineni Listening Forums, we heard the growing need for resources and guidance for families and teachers supporting children with diverse learning needs. The testimonial on the next page showcases the importance of this effort for our community.

### PROGRAMS

Our education programs are extensive and reach many key audiences:

#### Early Childhood

- Marvin Barish Right Start

#### Teens

- Kehillah High
- Immersive Educational Trips & Experiences
- Unpacked Israel Teen Fellowship

#### Professional Development for Educators

- Teacher and Administrator Collaborative Networks
- ElevatEd Early Childhood Teacher Training & Mentorship
- Stipends for Professional Development
- Early Childhood Teacher Degree Program

#### Students with Disabilities and Their Families

- Jewish Inclusion Education Coordinator
- Parent Support Resources
- Parent Education
- University of Houston Language & Literacy Screenings



## IMPACT: GROWING OUR FOCUS IN EDUCATION INCLUSION

Children of all abilities and with diverse learning profiles deserve access to quality education. The Federation provides resources for students, schools, families, teachers, and caregivers to better serve these needs.

Following information gathered through the Hineni Houston listening project, the Federation completed a follow-up community assessment by Matan (a disability education consulting firm) and hired a Jewish Education Inclusion Coordinator, Amy Schraier.

Schraier's background as speech-language pathologist and her understanding of the complex landscape surrounding specialty service needs have helped ground this work in ensuring that schools have additional support and parents have access to necessary resources.

A unique partnership with the University Speech Language and Hearing Clinic at the University of Houston was developed that includes graduate students offering speech and language diagnostic screening for all of our early childhood schools. The Federation covers these costs through the agreement which has grown to include speech therapy at Torah Day School and the Jack Segal Academy of Beth Yeshurun. All of these services are provided at no cost to families.



The scope of this program also includes:

**Family Consultations:** Parents and caregivers seeking support for their children can meet with Schraier for help finding a diagnostician or therapeutic resource, navigating educational needs, and for advocacy support.

**Jewish Providers Network:** Diagnosticians and therapeutic service providers can gather, network, and learn about new developments in special education support in our Jewish schools.

**Mifgash: Meeting Jewish Children and Families Where They Are:** Parents and caregivers of children with special needs and learning differences can meet to share connection and resources.

**Training and Professional Development:** Parents, caregivers, and educators benefit from expert trainings such as a learning series on Executive Functioning with Sarah Ward.

### FedFacts



**288+ children**  
have received free speech screenings

**35+ families**  
have received a family consultation

**80+ providers**  
have joined the Jewish Providers Network

### Family Consultations

*"My daughter was suffering socially at school and it started to affect her self-esteem. I met with Amy and she had so many helpful suggestions and resources, one of which involved my daughter working with a social thinking therapist. This has been a life-changing experience for my daughter. She is so much happier going to school and has started developing a growth mindset when it comes to other kids and how they interact. I am so thankful that Amy heard my concerns, the needs of my daughter, and came up with an actionable plan to improve the situation."*



– A middle school parent



## THE HERMAN H. FLEISHMAN FOUNDATION: COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM THROUGH ISRAEL EDUCATION

Educating our community and allies across Houston about Israel is a renewed focus of our work to combat antisemitism in real and tangible ways.

The Federation has partnered with OpenDor Media to bring Unpacked to Houston. Unpacked Israel teaches Houstonians how to engage thoughtfully in today's most challenging conversations around Israel. During four visits throughout the 2024-25 school year, educators are meeting with a range of audiences, with a special focus on teens, to provide nuanced and empathetic content to break down the complexities of Israel in a compelling way.

This program would not be possible without a generous grant from The Herman H. Fleishman Foundation (HHFF). HHFF Trustee Jennifer Wizel shared some details about why the Foundation is prioritizing this work:



"In our first near decade of grantmaking, HHFF focused on early childhood education. After October 7th, and with earnest encouragement from our founder, HHFF pivoted and in 2024, we pledged half of our budget to Jewish causes, burgeoning to 100% of the budget the following year and going forward.

Bringing Israel programming and expertise to a variety of Houston audiences, from teens to educators to lay leaders was a beautiful way to honor our new purpose.

The Federation creates ways to help us find respite and hope in distress, purpose and meaning in our Judaism, and connection and friendship in community. It is a resource beyond measure, a clear path to give and live Jewishly, and HHFF supports it with humility and gratitude." – **HHFF Trustee Jennifer Wizel**

### GROWING TEEN EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

We continue to expand opportunities for teens to learn and connect Jewishly with their peers. In addition to adopting Kehillah High under the Federation umbrella, we are growing teen engagement for the entire community. Upcoming programs include:



**Grade-level School Break Trips:** Trips to New Orleans, Galveston, and New York are designed to help teens explore new places, meet new friends, and experience Jewish life, culture, history.

**10th-12th grade Israel Summer Trip:** This transformative journey is the ultimate capstone to the Jewish teen experience offering adventure, learning, and connection with new friends from Houston and beyond.

**Unpacked Israel Teen Fellowship:** As part of the Federation's partnership with OpenDor Media, 23 10th–12th graders are extending their learning about Israel through peer dialogue and personal exploration, creating the next generation of informed Jewish voices. Contact Danielle Alexander for more information at [dalexander@houstonjewish.org](mailto:dalexander@houstonjewish.org).

### MARVIN BARISH RIGHT START

Marvin Barish Right Start covers tuition voucher for families enrolling their child in Jewish early childhood for the first time.

Since the beginning of the program in 2022, it has brought 377 new students to Jewish Early Childhood. The program has grown by over 106% in just four years—expanding from 73 students in its first year to 151 students today.

Over \$700,000 has been invested into Jewish Early Childhood through the Marvin Barish Right Start program.



#### FedFacts

*500 teens  
participate in teen  
programming*

*170 teens  
attend Kehillah High*