



JEWISH CLEVELAND'S DAY SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION:

A TIME TO ACT TO SECURE OUR JEWISH FUTURE

Our future is shaped through high-quality Jewish day schools that instill curiosity, joy in learning, strong Jewish identity, and love for the Jewish people, Israel, and community. By investing in our schools, we are investing in our children – inspiring the next generation who will lead us into a strong and vibrant Jewish future.

Today, we have an opportunity to take Cleveland's already strong network of Jewish day schools and elevate them further in our community by strengthening each one – simultaneously – to ensure a diversity of choice for generations to come. Today, we can make a statement to our children and our children's children that there is nothing more important than their education.

For decades, our community has prioritized Jewish education. We have developed a vibrant, expanding, enriching Jewish day school ecosystem that inspires families near and far to see Cleveland as a wonderful place to raise a family. Now is the time to build on this success by taking the next step in responding to increased enrollment, more complex learning needs, insufficient capital infrastructure, and the call for continued excellence.



STRENGTHENING JEWISH IDENTITY

Jewish day schools foster a love of learning, inquisitiveness, and deep Jewish knowledge that adds meaning and value to students' day-to-day lives and guides them throughout their lifetimes.

They offer a safe, loving environment where Jewish students are empowered to know who they are and where they come from, forge lasting bonds to one another and meaningful connections to our community, create a moral compass for how they want to live and act, and develop deep confidence and pride in their Jewish identities – all of which gives them the foundation they need to better navigate their future.



83%

of Jewish adults in Cleveland
who attended day school are highly
engaged in all or most aspects
of Jewish life¹, such as:

- **Lighting candles for Chanukah and Shabbat**
- Attending seders
- Discussing Jewish topics
- Reading Jewish publications
- Attending religious services
- Following news about Israel
- Donating to Jewish organizations



¹ Preliminary research from the 2022 Cleveland Jewish Community Study shows a correlation between Jewish educational experiences during childhood and the type of Jewish engagement in adulthood, with the strongest correlation exhibited by those who attended day school.

SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH LEADERS

Day schools play a central role as builders of Jewish life and developers of Jewish innovation. They are integral to our community's participation and leadership pipeline as well as long-term sustainability.

The day school graduates of today will become tomorrow's summer camp counselors, synagogue youth group leaders, Hillel and Birthright leaders, Jewish communal professional and lay leaders, Jewish families, and philanthropists – as well as key allies and partners with other communities and influential leaders in Greater Cleveland.

BUILDING JEWISH RESILIENCY

Overall, an abundance of research substantiates the importance of day schools in strengthening Jewish identity and resiliency, enriching Jewish continuity, and shaping the next generation.

Today, Jewish students throughout the United States are experiencing the interconnected impact of surging antisemitism and a mental health crisis.

Since October 7, 2023, our Jewish community is increasingly turning to Jewish organizations for support, security, understanding, and solidarity.

Our day schools encapsulate the greatest strengths of Jewish Cleveland – our superpower fueled by connection and community, compassion and concern for one another, selfless generosity, and our determination to work together despite differing opinions and views. It has never been more apparent how critical they are to the fabric of our Jewish community – and that the future of Jewish Cleveland, and indeed Jews everywhere, is inextricably linked to their high-quality education, growth, and financial security.

We must ensure that Jewish parents, their children, and the generations to come always have access to a selection of excellent day schools so they can choose the one that speaks to them the most and best serves their future plans.

Now more than ever,
it is our duty to give students
the chance to define and
explore their Jewish identity
for themselves in a welcoming,
supportive, affirmative
Jewish space.



SURGING INTEREST AND ENROLLMENT

In a recent Prizmah² survey,

60%

of schools reported enrolling new students due to the current climate, many from families who were not known prospects.

In a recent Jewish Federations of North America survey

38%

of parents with kids in a secular private school reported considering making the move to Jewish day schools.

²Prizmah is the network for Jewish day schools and yeshivas in North America. Based on survey responses and findings posted by Prizmah.org on June 11, 2024.

DECADES OF DEDICATION, LEADERSHIP, AND GROWTH

The first Jewish day school in Jewish Cleveland was founded by Rabbi N.W. Dessler (z"l) in 1943. Five years later, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's allocation to the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland made us the first Federation in the country to fund a day school.

From those early years, the Cleveland day school movement has expanded and developed. Our

five Federation beneficiary day schools represent a range of observance and religious views, act as thriving communities of belonging within our wider Jewish community, and provide educations that give students the opportunity to choose their own futures. They are positive hubs of vibrancy that each complement and influence one another:



Fuchs Mizrachi School (Mizrachi) is a religious Zionist day school that serves children in early childhood through twelfth grade.



Gross Schechter Day School (GSDS) offers infant care through eighth grade education, providing core values and Judaic studies centered around Conservative Judaism.



Hebrew Academy of Cleveland (HAC) is an Orthodox day school that educates students from early childhood through college preparatory high school.



Joseph and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School (Mandel JDS) is a pluralistic day school for children in early childhood through eighth grade.

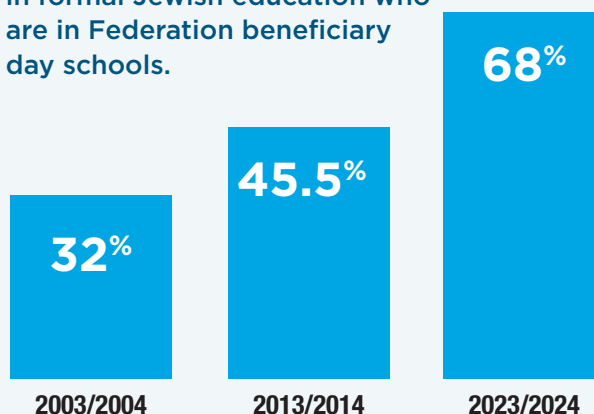


Yeshiva Derech Hatorah (YDT) is an Orthodox day school that serves boys in pre-K through eighth grade and girls in pre-K through twelfth grade.

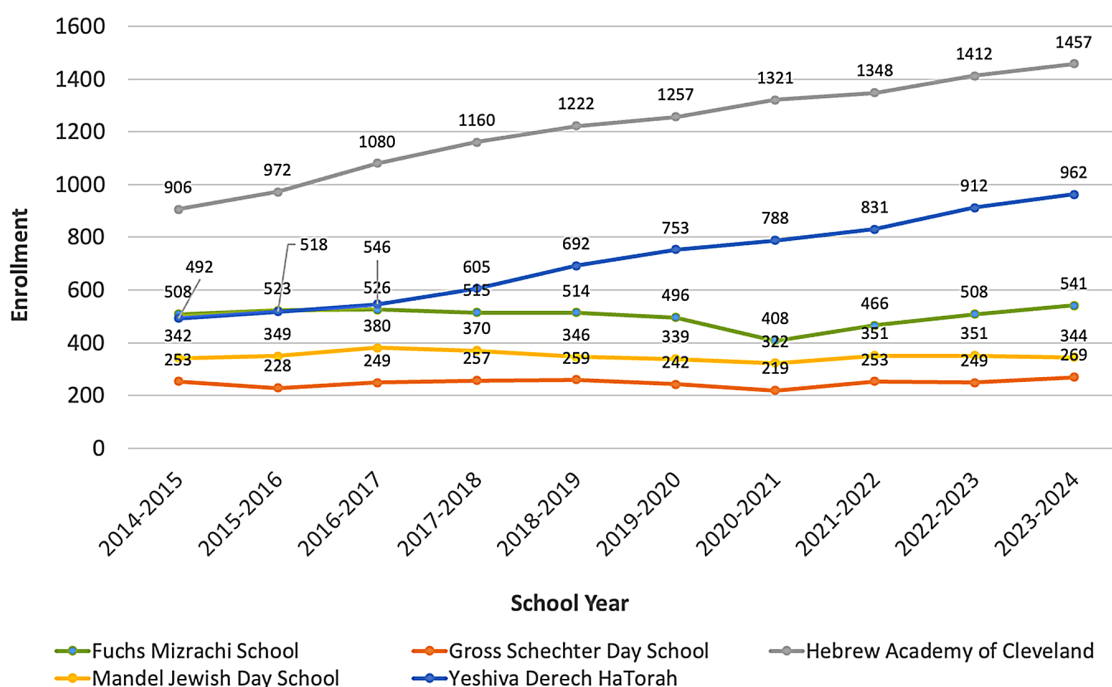
Today, decades of success have proven the strength, depth, longevity, and power of the collaboration and connection between our day schools and the wider community. **There is no doubt that the excellence of our day school system plays a vital role in Cleveland's unparalleled success and leadership across Jewish organizations nationally and internationally.**

The partnership between the Federation, the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland (JEC), and community leaders has created a Jewish educational system that has flourished. **Cleveland has one of the highest day school market penetration rates in the country.**

Percentage of children enrolled in formal Jewish education who are in Federation beneficiary day schools.



10-Year Day School Enrollment Trends By School (EC-12)



GROWING ENROLLMENT

In total, there were 3,573 students enrolled in our five day schools (early childhood through 12th grade for applicable day schools) during the 2023-2024 school year. This is a remarkable achievement, especially considering that this represents nearly the same number of students as the Beachwood

City and Orange City school districts combined, and nearly three-quarters the size of Cleveland Heights-University Heights (CH-UH). Additionally, all five day schools have seen overall enrollment growth (including EC-12) over the past ten years.

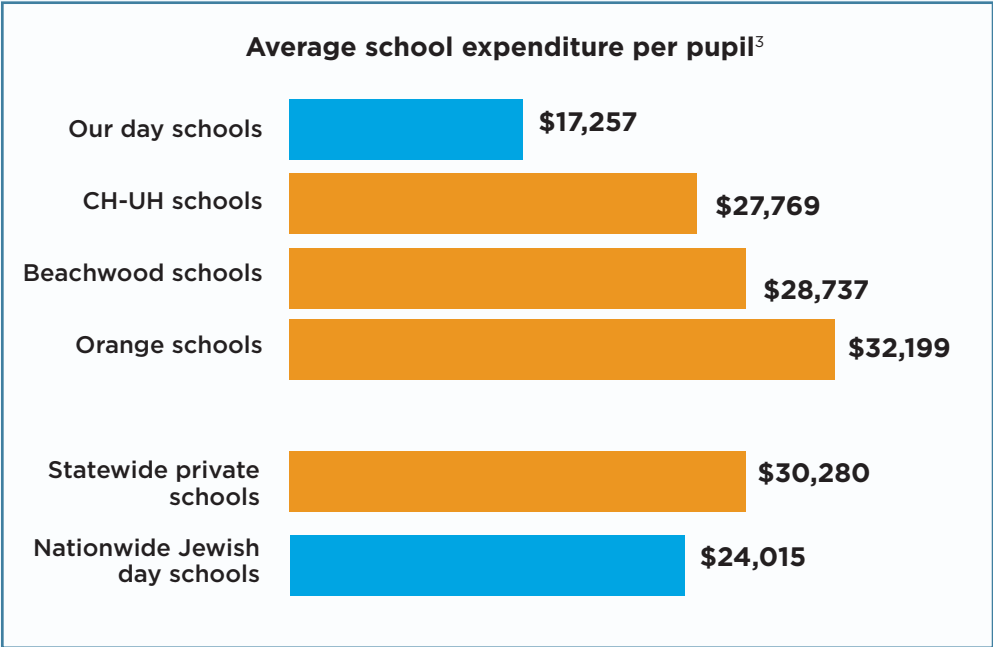
INVESTING IN DAY SCHOOL EDUCATION

Our community values Jewish day school education, currently investing more than \$4.5 million annually in our schools collectively through the Federation and JEC. The state of Ohio’s EdChoice scholarship program remains a significant source of revenue, as does the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. However, these sources of funding are vulnerable to change per the priorities of future administrations.

Overall, our day schools are in strong financial positions through a combination of sound fiscal management, capitalizing on available government funding, generous philanthropic investment, and savvy partnerships and initiatives.

However, costs continue to outpace the dollars allocated to our schools. To help offset this gap, all day schools need to raise substantial additional funds each year and have been forced to increase tuition in recent years to keep up with the rising costs of educating students, while at the same time working to keep tuition accessible and provide financial aid to as many families as possible.

We need to invest more in our children’s education. Jewish Cleveland’s day schools spend less per student than their public peers and the private school average – while providing a dual-curriculum of Judaic and general studies. Our day schools are efficient with the funding that they do have and provide this enriching education with much lower resources than their public and private school counterparts. With additional resources, our day schools could do even more for even more students.



We are excited to invite you to be part of an ambitious community-wide campaign that presents an extraordinary opportunity to transform our day schools and shape our collective Jewish future.

³ Based on Federation, state, and national reporting of public, private, and day school data. Sources available on request.

ONE COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN IS KEY

Our day schools currently lack sufficient capacity to work on annual campaigns, endowment campaigns, capital campaigns, and other fundraising events all at once.

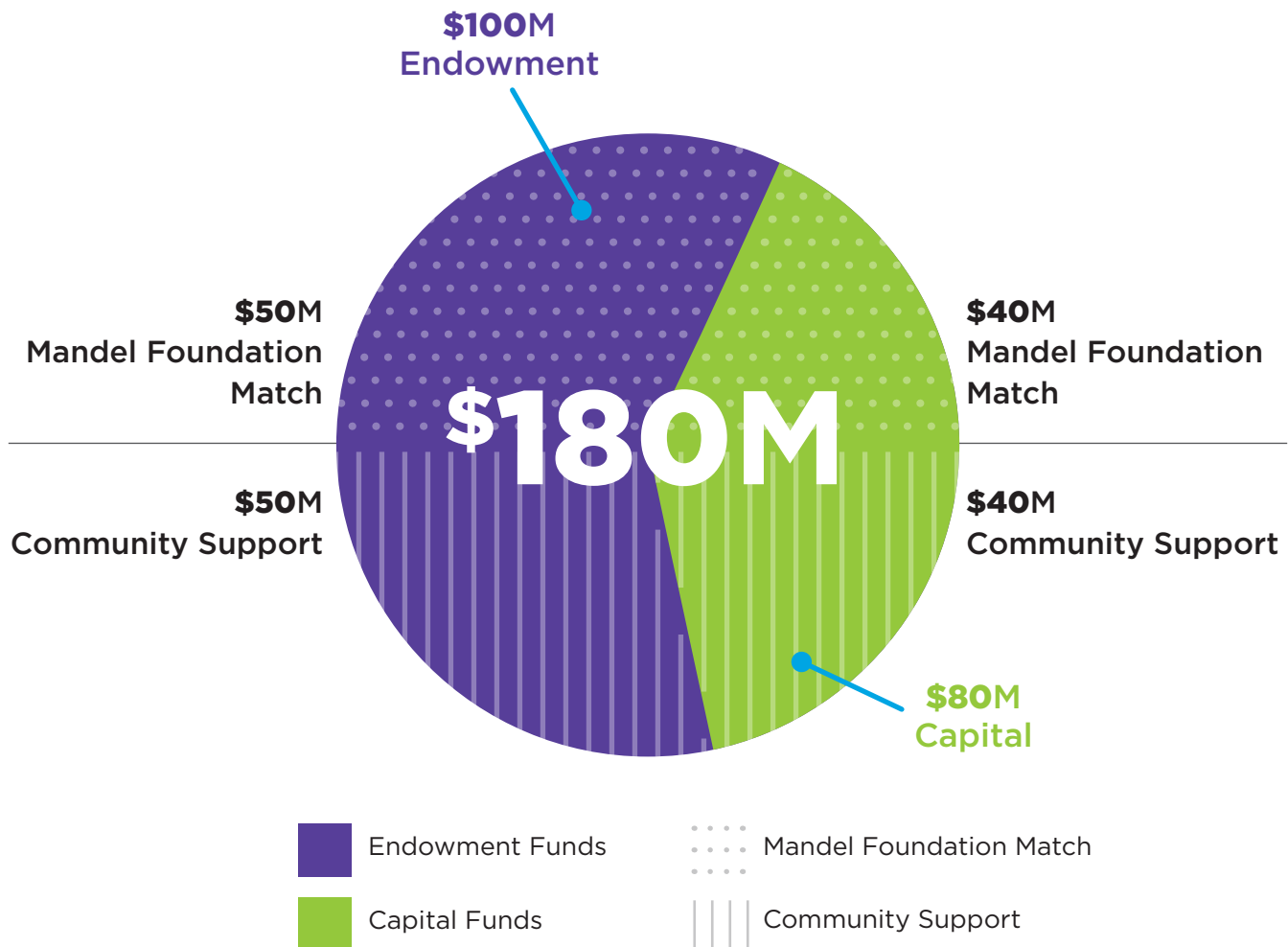
We are fortunate to have the generosity and partnership of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation to embark on a \$180 million collaborative campaign thoughtfully coordinated across our community. This unified, comprehensive approach will balance out the needs of each day school, enabling them to take the leap forward to meaningfully grow their endowments while simultaneously addressing their capital needs.



The power of a partnership between the Mandel Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, and generous donors like you will drive our community to succeed in this ambitious and critical endeavor.



JEWISH CLEVELAND'S TRANSFORMATIVE DAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



\$100M Endowment (\$20M/School):

\$50 million endowment donations from the community to be matched with up to \$50 million by the Mandel Foundation.

Each school will add \$20 million to their endowments, and with the 5% draw on the increase they will have \$1 million more per year to spend.

Up to \$80M Capital (\$20M/Participating School):

\$40 million capital donations from the community to be matched with up to \$40 million by the Mandel Foundation.

Four schools with extensive capital needs are eligible for this part of the campaign. Conversations with school leadership identified the capital needs and related costs with ranges that average around \$20 million each.

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation is offering matching funds up to \$90 million to ignite the passion of others with resources to act.

ENHANCING EXCELLENCE AND ACCESSIBILITY

Our day schools are vibrant and continuously innovating, as evidenced by their enrollment growth. Today, our community is investing in their excellence and accessibility to engage even more students in day school education.

Join our community's unprecedented campaign to ensure our day schools achieve all this and more:

Recruit and retain the best teachers by providing competitive compensation packages and advanced professional development programs.

Attract and develop the strongest professional and lay leadership through strategic development initiatives and pipelines.

Improve the caliber of education and innovation through smaller class sizes, new programmatic initiatives in Judaic and general studies as well as extracurriculars, and specialized programs such as STEM, fine arts, and internships.

Create more ways to engage families in Jewish learning, deepen connections to Israel, and strengthen Hebrew education by bringing in additional shlichim (emissaries from Israel).

Expand access to a wider range of students with different financial circumstances and learning needs, including both academic support and enrichment, through increased affordability, intervention, individual and small-group instruction, social-emotional learning, and mental health initiatives.

Build physical capacity to serve increasing numbers of students by acquiring new facilities and expanding buildings to add more classroom and communal spaces.

Renovate and upgrade facilities to create modern learning environments that provide the appropriately designed spaces to enhance the academic experience.

Enhancing access to educational excellence across all our day schools at the same time ensures every Jewish family in Cleveland has the opportunity to choose the school community that best represents their specific Jewish identity and goals for their children's future.



Exemplary teachers hold the keys to unlocking the self-confidence of our children. They shape futures by giving students the tools to clarify and focus their thinking, ask the right questions, sharpen their critical lens, argue persuasively, and make sound decisions.





YOUR MOMENT TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Today, you have the chance to partner with one of the most influential and visionary foundations in the Jewish world on shaping and securing our collective Jewish future together.

Now is your time to act. With profound respect, we request that you consider investing in this transformative, once-in-a-generation endeavor. Together, we will ensure our community continues to strengthen and grow under the brilliant stewardship of the exemplary Jewish leaders we need and deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

The future of American Jewish life will be determined by cities like Cleveland. We are the place that can incubate anything, and now is the time. This is the future of Jewish Cleveland, the future of Cleveland's place in the Jewish world, and the future of the Jewish people.

FUCHS
MIZRACHI
SCHOOL

שכטר
GROSS SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

בית חינוך הרב דסלר-קליבלנד
Hebrew Academy
of Cleveland

Joseph & Florence Mandel
Jewish Day School
בית הספר היהודי על שם ג'וסף ופלורנס מנדל

Yeshiva
DERECH
HATORAH
תפארת מנחם משה

 Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND
HERE FOR GOOD

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