



Ted Talks: Expanding options for Jewish Education in St. Paul

Federation board votes to provide education funding to synagogue supplemental schools

Facilitating new and innovative ways for our Jewish community to serve everyone is one of Federation's most important responsibilities.

We want to ensure that families have high quality options for Jewish education in St. Paul. We've seen changes in the ways families make educational choices, and we recognized that it was time to review our processes to make sure they remain relevant. That's why Federation established a task force in June 2018 to review our approach to educational funding of formal Pre-K through high school Jewish educational programs.

In July 2019, the Board of Directors approved the task force's recommendation that Federation allocations should support Jewish supplemental schools as well as day schools in St. Paul.

The task force had four desired outcomes for Jewish education in St. Paul, based in part on the Strengthening Jewish Education Panel report of the Community Plan:

- High quality and sufficient content
- Available to as many members of the community as possible
- Accessible to members of the community in terms of time, location, and differing learner abilities
- Innovative and imaginative



It looked at different funding models, reviewed national data and considered how to address challenges of the past related to educational funding. One important takeaway was that most students receiving Jewish education in our community are enrolled in a supplemental school.

Our goal is for these changes to be implemented over a three-year transition period beginning with our 2020 allocation cycle.

I'm grateful to our task force members for volunteering their expertise and time. I also look forward to the opportunity that this expanded funding model presents to encourage and support Jewish education for the children in our community.

Task force members:

- Mitch Rubinstein, Chair
- Rabbi Zalman Bendet
- Jon Brod Farber
- Adi Leviatan
- Roz Segal
- Michelle Shaller
- Ezra Strohm
- Mark Usem
- Mark Adelman, Interim CEO /Board President