The ISJL Education Program

Every Jewish child deserves an excellent Jewish education

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) supports, connects, and celebrates Jewish life in the south. The ISJL’s thirteen-state region includes communities of all sizes and denominations.
The ISJL’s approach to Jewish education connects congregations through a unique three-component approach, which includes a fully-scripted yet flexible curriculum, ongoing community support, and collective enrichment opportunities. Our program is designed to be responsive to the actual challenges and needs of religious schools, education directors, and teachers in communities just like yours.

All grades include 30 two-hour lesson plans. Activities in each lesson plan are designed to engage students across the learning-styles spectrum: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic (VAK).

“I love how the curriculum approaches all angles of learning. It really takes Sunday School off-book and brings Judaism to life for our kids, especially those in interfaith households.”

Each Curriculum Set includes: Early Childhood through High School Judaics · Kindergarten through 7th Grade Hebrew · All-School Programs Book · Text Study and Southern Jewish History Supplements · Audio CDs with songs, b’rachot and t’filot · Directors’ Handbook · Mad’richim Handbook · B’nei Mitz’vah Workbook · Teacher Enrichment · Family Education · Adult Education

Gives novice teachers everything they need and provides veteran educators a connected foundation

Developmentally appropriate by grade

Fosters strong Jewish identity in students

Features fully-scripted lessons for the entire year along with guidance on everything needed, from craft supply lists to song lyrics
In addition to our dynamic, comprehensive curriculum, a special element of the ISJL's approach to Jewish education is the responsive, engaged, direct community support provided by our traveling ISJL Program Associates, or PAs. Each partner community is assigned a PA who visits your community 1-2 times a year virtually or in person, bringing tremendous enthusiasm and programs catered to the needs of your school. They are also available remotely for lesson plan assistance, all-school program creation, and more!

During visits, Program Associates can provide a wide range of services:

- Lead Shabbat Services
- Give a D’var Torah
- Music / Song Sessions
- Israeli Dancing
- Oneg
- Chant Torah
- Lead a Text Study
- Adult Ed. Program
- Youth Group Activity
- Hav’dalah Event
- Lock-ins
- Retreats
- All-School Programs
- Teacher Trainings
- Parent Workshops
- Mad’richim Intensive
- Holiday Programs

Our team is excited to help your Jewish community!
ISJL partners have access to our expansive network of educators, clergy, and families from all across our region. We collaborate with the Cultural and Spiritual service areas of the ISJL, as well as outside collaborators, to bring you top-tier professional development opportunities in webinars throughout the year. Our annual Education Conference in June brings together representatives from all our communities for learning, networking, entertainment, and more.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHALLENGES

- Teachers, regardless of experience, are tasked to create their own lesson plans.
- Students are bored when they keep learning the same things, the same ways.
- Many religious school teachers are not professionally trained educators.
- Schools frequently use multiple curricula with little to no continuity or coordination.
- Teachers are not given resources to reach different types of learners.

### THE ISJL’S SOLUTIONS

- We provide teachers with complete, fully-scripted lesson plans—and more!
- Our spiraled curriculum revisits key content in new, increasingly sophisticated ways.
- The ISJL Education team offers training and continuous support for teachers.
- Our curriculum is a road map clearly showing what is taught in each grade.
- Our curriculum is designed for all modes of learning.