The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) supports, connects, and celebrates Jewish life in the South. We partner with congregations of all denominations and sizes across a thirteen-state southern region.

The ISJL seeks a dynamic educator to serve as our Director of Education. This role is one of the most unique and important positions available in the field of Jewish education today. The position includes mentoring, supervising, teaching, curriculum development, community-building, and more—all in a supportive, creative, non-traditional setting.

The ideal candidate will be excited to:

- Create vibrant Jewish learning environments for students of all ages
- Supervise ISJL Program Associates based in Jackson—recent college graduates who commit to 2 years serving the South as traveling Jewish professionals
- Develop training sessions and coordinate professional development opportunities for staff and for educators/teachers in partner communities across the region
- Update and implement a comprehensive, multi-grade curriculum
- Recruit new partners through phone calls, Zoom conferences, and in-person visits
- Coordinate collective enrichment opportunities, including adult education with Jewish thought leaders, conferences, family programs, professional development, and more
- Communicate effectively internally (staff of ~20) and externally (with thousands of community partners)
- Consult with communities about adapting curriculum and educational approaches
- Travel to lead Shabbat worship, teacher training workshops, and various programs with communities throughout the region
- Be an engaged team member supporting and collaborating on projects within the ISJL’s other service areas (Culture and Spirituality)

Salary range is $70,000 - $85,000, commensurate with experience. Position is full-time and includes benefits. Masters in Jewish Education or Doctorate in Education with a background in Jewish Education preferred. The position is available June 1, 2022, and is based in Jackson, Mississippi.

Submit a cover letter, resume, two references, and a sample lesson plan to ISJL CEO Michele Schipper (mschipper@isjl.org). Learn more: www.isjl.org.

*It is the policy of the ISJL to provide equal opportunity in employment to all employees and applicants for employment. We will not discriminate against any employee because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, veteran status, or disability.*
The mission of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life is to support, connect, and celebrate Jewish Life in the South.

The ISJL Education Program seeks to provide an excellent Jewish education to every Jewish student in our region, regardless of denomination or size of the religious school.

What is the religious environment like?

The ISJL is a trans-denominational organization, hiring staff from all backgrounds and working with congregations of every shape. Jewish staff at the ISJL are encouraged to practice their own meaningful paths of Judaism while living in Jackson, and to respect and implement the practice and customs of communities they visit.

What are 3 of the ISJL’s strengths?

- Our team: Dedicated, supportive, and dynamic, we embrace creativity, autonomy, and work ethic.
- Office culture: We embody Southern Hospitality and we’re a proud SRE (Safety, Respect, Equity) network member.
- Community connections: We have strong, well-established relationships with the communities we serve.
What’s the current education program status?

The ISJL Education Program serves over 3,000 students annually, in more than 60 religious schools across 13 states. Our education team doesn’t just remotely consult with our partners, we also visit them in-person to deliver great programming. We are always looking to find new partners who could benefit from and join in on our enthusiastic Jewish education *kehillah*.

3 strengths of our education program:

- **Program Associates**: The recent college graduates who spend two years working as ISJL Program Associates are the most incredible young professionals in the field.
- **Communities**: Participatory, welcoming, and appreciative, our journey in Jewish education is always inspired by our partners.
- **Curriculum**: The ISJL curriculum is updated annually. There’s no other fully-scripted, EC-through-Adult experiential curriculum like it.

What are your biggest challenges?

Education is the ISJL’s biggest (costliest) service area. In order to keep costs down for our communities, many of which are small and financially struggling, the organization has big annual fundraising goals. Many folks who learn about our amazing organization can’t believe how long we’ve existed and they didn’t know about us – so introducing the world to the ISJL is our challenge, and opportunity! We’re also always challenged (and excited) to recruit new communities.

Essential skills for a new educator:

- **Organization**: the Director of Education must balance supervisory duties, project management, educational roles, and more.
- **Communications**: this professional must express themselves clearly and professionally, in writing and in-person/onscreen.
- **Flexibility**: we need a forward-thinking leader, open to new ways of accomplishing tasks and receptive to feedback from supervisees as well as supervisors, colleagues, and community partners.