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## **THIRTY-THREE JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT NORTH AMERICA AWARDED PEJE CHALLENGE GRANTS**

**BOSTON, August 21, 2007** — The Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) [www.peje.org](http://www.peje.org), a national collaboration of philanthropic partners committed to strengthening Jewish day school education in North America, has announced the recipients of its 2007-2008 Challenge Grant program.

The 2007-2008 PEJE grants, totaling \$1 million, were recently distributed to 33 schools, including 17 new recipients and 16 schools that received grants last year. The schools represent 23 communities throughout North America. Individual awards ranged in value from \$16,000 to \$95,000. Recipient schools include elementary, middle and high schools.

"The Challenge Grant program is a major PEJE initiative to help Jewish day schools increase enrollment through vital assessment and coaching," said Rabbi Josh Elkin, executive director of PEJE. "Since the grants program began ten years ago, we have seen significant growth in enrollment which is a tremendous accomplishment for the day school movement and the families it serves."

When PEJE was founded in 1997, the Challenge Grant program was designed to help establish new Jewish day schools. Today the program helps Jewish day schools across North America to increase enrollment and build their capacity. The expanded program includes three types of grants that accommodate schools at various stages of development:

- **School Improvement Journey Grant:** The two-to three-year grant includes support for a "whole school" assessment and coaching in the first year, with the opportunity for further support in the second and third years.
- **Pipeline Grant:** The grant promotes relationship-building between the day school and early childhood education programs in order to increase recruitment and enrollment of students.
- **New School Grant:** This grant is for groups planning to establish new Jewish day schools and to existing schools that are ready to add a new division or branch (e.g. a middle school or a high school).

A key component to each PEJE grant is the opportunity for recipients to work with a coach, a consultant with expertise that matches a school's needs. These professionals assist school leaders in developing plans for sustainable growth.

“As a new head of school, I look forward to the opportunity our School Improvement Journey grant provides to review Ramaz’s mission and to develop a strategic plan that builds on our strengths,” noted Judith Fagin, dean of the Ramaz School in Manhattan. “More families in the Tri-State region are expressing an interest in a day school education for their children, and we’re embarking on a major construction project to provide an upgraded and expanded Early Childhood Center and Lower School for a growing student body.”

### **About PEJE**

The Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), founded in 1997 by Michael Steinhardt and Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, is a national organization of visionary Jewish philanthropists seeking to establish a vibrant and sustainable Jewish future through strengthening the Jewish day school movement in North America. In its first ten years, PEJE’s model of making grants, providing expertise, and advocating for the day school movement reached over 150 elementary, middle, and high schools and invested a total of over \$20 million in the field. PEJE has contributed to the opening of over 60 new Jewish day schools.

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## 2007-2008 PEJE CHALLENGE GRANT RECIPIENTS

### 2007-2008 New PEJE Challenge Grant Recipients

School	City	State	Grant Type	Start Year
Hochberg Preparatory	N. Miami Beach	FL	New School	2007-2008
Talmud Torah of St. Paul	St. Paul	MN	New School	2007-2008
Yavneh Day School	Los Gatos	CA	Pipeline	2007-2008
Adat Ari El Day School	Valley Village	CA	Pipeline	2007-2008
Westchester Fairfield Hebrew Academy	Greenwich	CT	Pipeline	2007-2008
Harry B. Kellman Academy	Cherry Hill	NJ	Pipeline	2007-2008
Milwaukee Jewish Day School	Milwaukee	WI	Pipeline	2007-2008
Jess Schwartz Jewish Community High School	Scottsdale	AZ	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
Pardes Jewish Day School	Scottsdale	AZ	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
Solomon Schechter Day School of Metro Chic.	Northbrook	IL	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit	Farmington Hills	MI	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
Frankel Jewish Academy	West Bloomfield	MI	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
SSDS of Essex and Union	West Orange	NJ	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
Ramaz School	New York	NY	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
Akiba Academy of Dallas	Dallas	TX	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
Yavneh Academy of Dallas	Dallas	TX	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008
El Paso Jewish Academy	El Paso	TX	School Improvement Journey	2007-2008

### 2007-2008 Continuing PEJE Challenge Grant Recipients

School	City	State	Grant Type	Start Year
Maass Jewish Community Day School	Raleigh	NC	New School	2003-2004
Charlottesville Community Jewish Day School	Charlottesville	VA	New School	2004-2005
Beit Rabban	New York	NY	New School	2006-2007
Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island	Providence	RI	New School	2006-2007
Tucson Hebrew Academy	Tucson	AZ	School Improvement Journey	2004-2005
Charlotte Jewish Day School	Charlotte	NC	School Improvement Journey	2005-2006
Sandra E. Lerner Jewish Community D.S.	Durham	NC	School Improvement Journey	2005-2006
Community Day	Pittsburgh	PA	School Improvement Journey	2005-2006
Minneapolis Jewish Day School	Minneapolis	MN	School Improvement Journey	2005-2006
Beth Hillel Day School	Encino	CA	School Improvement Journey	2004-2005
Contra Costa Jewish Day School	Lafayette	CA	School Improvement Journey	2006-2007
Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School	Northridge	CA	School Improvement Journey	2006-2007
Kadima Hebrew Academy	West Hills	CA	School Improvement Journey	2006-2007
Brauser Maimonides Academy	Ft. Lauderdale	FL	School Improvement Journey	2006-2007
Solomon Schechter Day School of St. Louis	St. Louis	MO	School Improvement Journey	2006-2007
B'nai Shalom Day School	Greensboro	NC	School Improvement Journey	2006-2007