



Common Rebuttals to Requests for Support

I believe in public education.

It is possible to remain very supportive of public education while supporting Jewish day schools as well. Indeed, throughout America, numerous ethnic and cultural groups sponsor alternative forms of education, all the while remaining supportive of the goals and educational programs of the general community.

I have no connection to the school.

Day school donors who don't have a direct connection to a school often cite their primary motivation for giving to a school as: "the number one way to ensure a Jewish future." Day school donors generally tend to contribute to a number of Jewish causes, not simply those to which they have a direct connection.

Day schools are too Jewish for me.

The growing number of day schools is reflective of the many different lifestyles in the 21st century North American Jewish community. In fact, the greatest growth for day schools has been in community day schools which draw from across the denominations, creating a diverse community of students where all are respected and accepted.

The quality of the education is not as high as I think it should be.

The quality of day school education is outstanding. Day schools are held to ever-increasing standards. Through innovative teacher recruitment and education programs, the cadre of day school faculty is growing to include graduates of the best colleges and universities, as well as some with distinguished careers in public and private schools who are open to a new challenge. In the competitive market for independent secondary education, most day schools understand that they must offer a top-quality product to their families.

I want my philanthropy to have an impact on a larger scale.

While day schools work one child at a time, they have significant long-term impact. When you support a day school, you are providing a strong and direct influence on a child. At the same time, you are contributing to an impact on the larger community. By helping to educate the next generation of literate Jewish leaders, day schools represent an opportunity for a long-term, leveraged investment.

Why support a school for privileged children?

Day schools educate students from a range of economic backgrounds, and tuition alone never covers the entire cost of operating a school. Most day schools have a needs-blind admissions policy and take seriously their mandate to provide a serious Jewish education to all those who desire it. About one-third of day school students receive some form of scholarship or financial aid.

It is not my responsibility.

Raising the next generation of educated Jews is a responsibility that is at the core of the day school mission. Day school supporters see their contributions to these schools as a way to express their responsibility to the future of all Jews.

I have other philanthropic priorities.

Making choices about where to direct one's philanthropic support requires deep consideration. Day schools have a tremendous impact on their students and on the larger community. At the same time, they have significant financial needs to meet. Donors have found the connections they've made to day schools to be very rewarding. Several recent \$20 million gifts plus a growing number of gifts above \$1 million—from individuals with no direct connection to the school—affirm the value of investing in the day school enterprise.