

## Facts, Figures, and Statistics about Jewish Day Schools

### *Enrollment*

A study based on 1998-99 enrollment figures concluded that nearly 185,000 students were enrolled in day schools in the United States. Current figures identify 700 Jewish day schools in North America enrolling 200,000 students. Nearly 40% of all American day schools enroll 100 or fewer students.

Overall, enrollment in U.S. day schools increased by more than 20,000 students in the 1990s, with significant growth in non-Orthodox schools. Since 1978, the number of children enrolled in day schools has doubled.

Within the 70 Solomon Schechter day schools (Conservative), enrollment has grown from 9500 in 1978 to nearly 21,000 in 2000. Since 1985, enrollment has nearly doubled.

In 1970, there were two schools affiliated with the Reform movement; in 1999, there were 22.

Jewish high schools have experienced a period of rapid growth, particularly those not affiliated with the Orthodox community. In 1980, there were 10 non-Orthodox Jewish high schools in North America. During the 1990s, 12 new non-Orthodox high schools opened. Since 2000, 13 schools either have opened or are in the planning stage.

### *Types of Schools*

Many day schools are affiliated with a denominational movement. The breakdown of 1998-99 enrollment is as follows (*Haredi* or ultra-Orthodox schools are not included in this survey):

32% of enrollment in Modern Orthodox schools. These are typically affiliated with the Association of Modern Orthodox Schools and Yeshiva High Schools. ([www.yu.edu](http://www.yu.edu)).

24% of enrollment in Centrist Orthodox schools. These schools are typically affiliated with Torah U'Mesorah ([www.e-chinuch.org](http://www.e-chinuch.org)).

21% of enrollment in Conservative schools, affiliated with the Solomon Schechter Day School Association ([www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org)).

18% of enrollment in Community Schools, many of which are affiliated with RAVSAK, the Jewish Community Day School Network.

5% of enrollment in Reform schools, affiliated with the PARDeS, the Progressive Association for Reform Day Schools ([www.pardesdayschools.org](http://www.pardesdayschools.org)).

Almost all schools attract students both within and beyond their denominational affiliation.

### *Sources of Support*

As the most intensive form of Jewish education, day schools are also the most expensive. Tuitions range from \$5000 to nearly \$18,000 annually per student. The total expenditure for day schools in North America is roughly \$2 billion annually.

The financial operation of day schools depends on three main sources of revenue: tuition, federation support, and fundraising.

Tuition does not cover the actual cost of educating each child. In Los Angeles in 1997, the 36 day schools had a combined annual operating budget of \$67 million, while tuition covered only \$52 million. The gap between tuition revenue and per-student expenditures varies widely. A 1997 study that excluded New York-area schools found the following:

<b>Affiliation of School</b>	<b>Average % of budget covered by tuition</b>
Community	68%
Reform	88%
Conservative	90%
Orthodox	57%

Federation support for day schools also varies among communities. Federation allocations can have substantial impact on schools, both in terms of initiating expansion projects, upgrading facilities, and strengthening the quality of the educational offerings. On average, local federations provide approximately 5% of the funds needed to educate each child in day school. This percent does not include the contributions from federations for day school building and endowment campaigns. In general, the amount of federation support for operating and capital needs varies widely from community to community.

Funding from private sources, including foundations and individuals, accounts for the third stream of day school revenue. Schools typically cover 10-30% of

their annual budgets through fundraising efforts. Charitable giving to day schools in 1997 was estimated to be approximately \$250 million.

*Sources:*

**A Census of Jewish Day Schools in the United States** by Marvin Schick (AVI CHAI Foundation: January 2000)

**Talking Dollars and Sense About Jewish Education** by Jack Wertheimer (AVI CHAI Foundation: August 2001)

**Jewish Involvement of the Baby Boom Generation: Interrogating the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey** by Mordechai Rimor and Elihu Katz (The Louis Guttman Israel Institute of Applied Social Research: November 1993)

**The Financing of Jewish Day Schools** by Marvin Schick and Jeremy Dauber (AVI CHAI Foundation: September 1997)