

**Memphis Jewish Federation (MJF)  
Education Funding Proposal  
February 2, 2017**

(Recommended by JCP Board and Approved by MJF Board on February 23, 2017)

(Amended March 19, 2018 by JCP and MJF Board of Directors)

(Proposed Amendment, Summer 2019)

(Reviewed by JCP Executive Committee on November 13, 2019)

(Approved by JCP Board and MJF Board on November 20, 2019)

For many years, funding for local Jewish education consisted almost entirely of a needs-based scholarship arrangement. Originally conceived as a compromise that would be acceptable to all streams of Judaism, the scholarship program of MJF has outlived that purpose. There has also been a decrease in student enrollment in both of Memphis' day schools over the past decade resulting in a decrease in the number of qualified scholarship students. This enrollment decline is causing concern regarding the viability of the schools. Therefore, a new model for funding Jewish education in the Memphis Jewish community to replace the existing needs based scholarship process is proposed. This new model illustrates to families and to institutions the importance of and commitment to Jewish education for the entire Jewish community. It also reduces the amount of staff time and resources needed to administer the cumbersome scholarship program.

Under this new model, Federation's allocation committee will be charged with awarding grants in three areas: Day Schools (for per pupil stipend and incentive fund), Synagogue Schools (for per pupil stipend), Jewish Overnight Camp (need-based scholarship).

**CALCULATION GUIDELINES**

For purposes of all calculations under this allocation process: (a) qualified students or campers shall mean only such students or campers who are Jewish and, in the case of qualified campers, residents of Memphis; and (b) allocations for 2017 shall be increased or reduced pro rata to the extent that the 2017 local unrestricted campaign is more or less than the 2016 local unrestricted campaign.

**DAY SCHOOLS**

MJF intends to include an allocation to be made for grants to local Jewish day schools. That allocation shall be \$250,000 for fiscal year 2017 subject to the adjustment outlined in the calculation guidelines above. In years that follow, it shall be determined by the Board approved education grants policy.\* That total allocation shall be divided between the approved day schools based on their relative full-time qualified student enrollment for the prior fiscal year; for the purpose of determining relative enrollment, a full-time qualified student in kindergarten shall be considered .4 of a qualified student, a full-time qualified student in grades one through eight shall be considered one qualified student, and a full-time qualified student in grades nine through twelve shall be considered

1.25 qualified students. Each approved day school<sup>1</sup> must submit to MJF a roster of its qualified students for the current school year, showing the name and residence of each qualified student, birth date, grade, parents' names, and the months attended during the current year, on or before February 15. This is in addition to providing information on the needs of the school in a format to be provided as part of the MJF grant application process.

For fiscal year 2017-2018 only, there shall be an additional allocation of up to \$70,000, to help schools adjust to the new funding procedure. Each school shall determine the difference between its scholarship based MJF funding for fiscal year 2016-2017 and its grant for fiscal year 2017-2018, and up to \$70,000 one-time allocation shall be divided between the schools based on those relative differences.

In addition to the grants described above, beginning in FY 2018-2019, there may be an allocation for an incentive fund to apply to collaborative efforts that either 1) reduces the expenses of the individual day schools; or is deemed to strengthen the educational product/offering of both schools (e.g. hiring of a shared school counselor). That total grant may be up to \$50,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 and such amount shall be determined by the current Jewish education grant policy. While cost-saving shared personnel or facilities which replace existing individual school personnel or facilities are favored, shared personnel or facilities for new programs can be considered in dividing the allocation. A sample of that might be teacher training programs shared by all approved day schools. All payments of this incentive grant for any fiscal year shall be made within 60 days after the end of that fiscal year, as reimbursement for the savings achieved by shared personnel or facilities.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOLS**

The MJF grants process intends to include an allocation to be made for grants to local approved<sup>2</sup> supplemental schools which were not included in day schools. That allocation shall be up to \$25,000 for fiscal year 2017-2018 subject to the adjustment outlined in the calculation guidelines above. For following years, it shall be determined by the Board approved education grants policy.\* That total allocation shall be divided between the approved supplemental schools for grades K through 12, including qualified students receiving only bar or bat mitzvah training, based on their relative qualified student enrollment for the prior fiscal year, but the grant to any supplemental school for any fiscal year shall not exceed \$75 per enrolled qualified student for that fiscal year. Each supplemental school must submit to MJF a roster of its qualified students for the current school year, showing the name and addresses of each qualified student, birth

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<sup>2</sup> The current approved supplemental schools are The Wendy and Avron Fogelman Religious School at Temple Israel and Beth Sholom Synagogue Religious School.

date, grade and parents' names, on or before February 15. This is in addition to providing information on the needs of the school in a format to be provided by MJF as part of the grant application process.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS – Support of Memphis student participation in summer camps shall continue to be through need-based scholarships under existing guidelines.

## ISRAEL TRAVEL AND ISRAEL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

It is anticipated that all funding for Israel travel and Israel educational programs will be determined under Memphis Jewish Federation's Lemsky Endowment Fund and will not be part of the standard grants determination and approval process.

## USE OF FUNDS AND REPORTING

While institutions receiving funds under this process may use such funds as they deem proper in the operations of their Jewish educational programs, they are strongly encouraged to give the highest priority for use of such funds to individual scholarships, to assure that no qualified student is prevented from getting a Jewish educational experience because of financial constraints. Institutions are also encouraged, but not required, to use some or all of the funds granted for other incentives for qualified students or campers to enter into their educational programs.

Every institution receiving funds under this process is required to submit to MJF, by February 15, in the required formats: (1) a report showing in reasonable detail how the funds received from MJF were used by the institution, (2) its most recent audited financial statement (no more than 1 year old), prior three years of budget vs actual financial statements, current year operating budget with actuals as of December 31, (3) a roster of its qualified students for the current school year, showing the name and residence of each qualified student, the grade, birthdate, and the parents' names; and a roster of students who have registered for the next school year; 4) a written document that articulates in a meaningful way to JCP leadership and grant committees why a grant from the community's Annual Campaign is needed; and 5) an update on any operating recommendations made by JCP or a third party (e.g. 2019 Prizmah Study Recommendations) . Failure by any institution to responsibly use the funds received for proper Jewish educational purposes or to submit such reports in a timely and sufficiently detailed manner could adversely impact future MJF grants to the institution.

<sup>1</sup> The current approved day schools are Margolin Hebrew Academy/Finestone Yeshiva of the South, Bornblum Jewish Community School, and Temple Israel Kindergarten.

\*Board Approved Jewish Education Grants Policy (March 19, 2018):

*The amount awarded to Jewish education will be based on a 7-year average of previous amounts allocated to Jewish education as a percentage of total local allocable dollars of that same time period. This will be revisited annually and changes may be recommended if circumstances dictate (e.g. increase in enrolled students, significant increase in local allocable dollars, etc.)*