



## Education Directors: Here's what's NEXT for professional learning for your staff!



**Supplementary School teachers invest time, skill, energy and creativity in their classes every week. Their hard work is most successful when reinforced by professional learning, which consists**

**of ongoing education about pedagogical practices, more and deeper Jewish content, ones' own Jewish identity, and the needs and desires of ones' students.**

**Your Supplementary School – and therefore your students and their families – benefit as you consistently invest in your teachers. NEXT offers multiple ways to bring best practices, new and innovative teaching strategies and guidance to your faculty. Here are some ways your faculty can participate in what's NEXT in Jewish Supplementary School education.**

**Please visit our website at [www.gratz.edu/NEXT](http://www.gratz.edu/NEXT) to see current classes.**

“Finding more quality professional development for my teachers can be challenging – there's either not enough time, not enough money, or not enough resources. NEXT courses are great quality, inspiring, and beneficial. They're flexible and affordable too. My teachers are happy, I'm happy, and the students are happy too!”

– Dr. Anna M. Salomon, Ed.D.  
Temple Beth-El  
St. Petersburg, FL

“Thank you for creating and promoting such a diverse, high-quality professional development program! I've made enrollment in NEXT classes a stated expectation for teachers starting this summer, and most of our faculty have signed up for classes; a number of them for more than one. I anticipate more enrollments soon.”

– Sahar Oz  
Rodeph Shalom  
Philadelphia, PA

**Classes are typically 2 hours per week and range from 3-8 weeks. Topics include or have included:**

- Boot Camp for New Teachers (and those with minimal formal training)
  - Jewish Essentials for Teachers
  - Understanding by Design® with Friedman Commission on Jewish Education
  - Experiential Education Strategies for the Classroom
  - Problem-Based Learning with Jewish Learning Venture
  - Active Learning
  - Brain-Based Education
  - Special Needs with Matan
  - Technology in the Classroom
  - Creative Arts with Avoda Arts
  - Music in the Classroom
  - Teaching with Games
  - Family Education
  - Service Learning
  - Social-Emotional Learning Techniques
  - Spotlight on K-2nd Grade
  - Spotlight on Adolescents (7th – 12th grades)
  - Talking Tough Topics with Teens
  - Teaching Children of Interfaith Families with InterfaithFamily
  - Teaching Hebrew Reading
  - Teaching Prayer (3rd – 7th grades)
  - Teaching Fall Holidays
  - Teaching Spring Holidays
  - Teaching Torah Through Multiple Intelligences
  - Teaching Torah (K-2nd grade)
  - Teaching Torah (3rd – 7th grades) with Friedman Commission on Jewish Education
  - Teaching Israel (5th-7th grades) with Deborah's Palm
  - Teaching Israel (K-2nd grade)
- New topics added each semester!*

## Communities of Practice

Teachers who enroll in our Boot Camp and Spotlight classes (which focus on teaching specific age groups) are invited to participate in dynamic online Communities of Practice with colleagues doing the same work. In these groups, they can continue to discuss issues with peers, as well as brainstorm and strategize about how to best engage their students. Interested teachers should be directed to contact Rabbi Erin Hirsh [ehirsh@gratz.edu](mailto:ehirsh@gratz.edu) to join.

## Professional Assessment Tool

The NEXT Professional Assessment Tool for Supplementary School Teachers (PAT) is an opportunity for teachers to think comprehensively about how their teaching reflects current best practices in multiple dimensions. Specifically designed with Jewish supplementary school teachers in mind, it takes about 30 minutes to complete. The PAT can be utilized in multiple ways as teachers automatically receive copies of their answers. In addition to general assessment, we have now added a Hebrew & Prayer assessment tool. As Education Directors, you are invited to peruse the tool and may choose to use either or both of them as part of your year-end teacher evaluation.

## FEES

Through the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, NEXT programs are free to all teachers in the Philadelphia area. The Communities of Practice and Professional Assessment Tools are free to everyone.

Our online classes are open to teachers outside the Philadelphia area for \$75 per three-week class, \$100 per four-week class, \$150 per six-week class, \$200 per eight-week class. The fee for Jewish Essentials for Teachers and for the Boot Camp for New Teachers, which are self-paced and have rolling admission, is \$150.

**We encourage education directors to contact NEXT to arrange group discounts. If you enroll three teachers, you can enroll a fourth teacher at no charge.**

Teachers in Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Hartford, Houston, Miami, Milwaukee and the Greater Palm Beaches can now also register for NEXT online classes at special tuition rates through the generosity of their central agencies and federations. **Please visit our website [www.gratz.edu/NEXT](http://www.gratz.edu/NEXT) to learn about our arrangement with each community.**

“NEXT classes give my teachers an opportunity to learn from expert educators and with colleagues from schools throughout the country. The range of classes and the flexibility of online coursework means teachers could participate in professional development related to a specific area of interest or skill-building. The breadth of offerings far exceeds what is provided by our local Jewish organizations. Teachers confirm that the classes are directly applicable to their classrooms, and their enthusiasm enriches our staff as a whole.”

– Terri Ginsberg Bernsohn  
Jewish Reconstructionist  
Congregation  
Evanston, IL

“NEXT has given me the opportunity to suggest professional development topics that I could not teach myself and then they develop the class, find the instructors, and my teachers can take the courses on line for free! What more could you want?”

– Rabbi Stacy Rigler  
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel  
Elkins Park, PA

