

# The Coalition of Innovating Congregations



The Experiment in  
Congregational Education

Leadership Institute

Funded by  
UJA Federation  
of New York



## Transforming the Way Children Experience Judaism

50

synagogues in New York City, Westchester and Long Island are in the Coalition.

12

new models of Jewish education are changing the Hebrew school landscape.

3,000

kids and **2,200 families** are experiencing innovative Jewish education this year.



*Traditional Hebrew School is not keeping up with children and families' changing needs. In Hebrew School, children sit at desks, listen to teachers, and take tests. School happens in isolation, separate from action. Hebrew School doesn't enable our children to experience the beauty of living Judaism.*

## The Coalition of Innovating Congregations is leading the way to reinvigorate Jewish education.

We built the Coalition of Innovating Congregations to help congregations:

- move learning beyond the classroom and into the world.
- transform Hebrew Schools into places where children live Judaism, not just learn it.
- help children and families live full Jewish lives today.

### WE DO IT BY PROVIDING NEW APPROACHES AND SUPPORT:



#### EDUCATIONAL EXPERTISE & LEADERSHIP

Innovating Congregations are developing new models of education, designing new kinds of learning, and building new collaborative structures.



#### RESOURCES & MATERIALS

Innovating Congregations access grant money, top-notch educators, consultants, and resource providers.



#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Innovating Congregations build networks of colleagues, learn from others, and adapt resources to meet the needs of their families.

# 12

beyond-the-classroom models of learning, are helping kids become their best selves.

This year, through the Coalition:

- kids are **living Shabbat** instead of learning on Sunday.
- kids are learning **with their families** in addition to on their own.
- kids are **discovering answers** to their own questions instead of just listening to teachers.
- kids are learning **in the real world** in addition to inside classrooms.
- kids are experiencing **camp style learning** instead of school.
- kids are exploring Judaism through **social action and service learning**.
- kids are benefitting from **personal Jewish coaches**.
- kids are making **intergenerational ties** with other children and adults.



This is the new landscape of Jewish education.