



CSI - Milwaukee

**The Congregational
School Initiative**



Coalition for
Jewish Learning

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

CSI-Milwaukee is a partnership dedicated to the excellence of Milwaukee's religious schools. The partners are the religious schools of Congregations Beth Israel Ner Tamid, Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, Emanu'El of Waukesha, Shalom, and Sinai, the Synagogue Educators Council (SEC, formerly the Principals Council), and the Coalition for Jewish Learning, the Education Program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. This year's theme is "Teaching about G-d and Spirituality."

CSI-Milwaukee has been supported by grants from the Jewish Community Foundation, the Helen Bader Foundation and is currently funded by generous local philanthropists. These benefactors have graciously used CSI-Milwaukee and the Coalition for Jewish Learning as a vehicle for providing funds for synagogue schools through their charitable funds in the Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

Major Components:

- *Leadership Teams at Each Partnership School:* Teams are composed of professional and lay leadership as well as parents and teachers. The teams draft a Vision and goals best suited for their school and work together to make their vision a reality.
- *Classes for Teachers:* Our classes present many approaches for enhancing teaching and acquiring new skills. Teachers can earn a stipend of \$400.00. To earn this stipend, teachers must complete twelve CSI credit hours of instruction and complete project or assignments that allow applications of ideas from the class. A maximum of three credit hours can be earned from completing a Gratz college NEXT class. Community educators are welcome at CSI-Milwaukee workshops, but only teachers of the five partner schools are eligible for stipends.
- *Seminars for School Directors:* The directors of participating schools attend seminars relevant to the year's main theme and also plan future activities for CSI-Milwaukee.
- *Assessments:* CSI-Milwaukee utilizes the JSASIP assessment instrument to provide observations by trained, professional observers. These are not evaluations of the school but rather snapshots of current practice which are used by school leadership teams in their planning.

- *Consultant Services:* Consultant services are available to help schools plan and address specific concerns.
- *Curriculum Development:* In past years CSI-Milwaukee has focused on Israel curriculum and modern educational technology. For this year the focus is on developing revised curriculum relation to this year's theme, "Teaching about G-d and Spirituality."

Teachers at the following schools are eligible and encouraged to be actively involved in CSI Milwaukee:

- Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid
- Congregation Shalom
- Congregation Sinai
- Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun
- Emanu-El of Waukesha

Participation in class indicates your willingness to be part of CSI-Milwaukee. No formal registration process is required.

Questions about CSI-Milwaukee? Contact:

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