

Jewish-Related Tech

Any general video chat tool can be used to connect students across the world for Jewish educational purposes.

- **The Global School Twinning Network:** Makes use of video conferencing to connect classes from Jewish communities across the world. www.jewishagency.org/school-twinning/program/31896

Further Suggestions for Jewish Education

Further use of this technology would be greatly beneficial in helping Jewish students in school or at home interact with and learn from each other as well as connect people during the off-season, before or after various in-person Jewish experiences and programs. Schools in the United States, Israel, and elsewhere can connect to each other; scholars can mentor students; college students in the United States can connect with Israeli peers virtually; Jewish families can virtually twin with other families in their neighborhood or anywhere.

five

Support for Organizations and Educators

Support for Technology Infrastructure

When effectively implementing technology into education, it is crucial that the appropriate infrastructure and organizational systems are stable and in place. This is a critical need, without which any technology, no matter how interesting and savvy it may be, will not succeed. It is important to note that this need is crucial for educators and content creators alike.

There is also an opportunity to support employing sufficient staff and those who are tech savvy and skilled for developing and implementing technologies, such as website development, database management, communication tools, and social media.

Examples

- Wi-Fi accessibility
- Hardware, software, and proper training for them
- Operational costs
- Staff skilled in technology and/or social media
- Databases and organizational tools, including content management systems (CMS) and learning management systems (LMS)

Professional Development

Professional development (PD) often takes advantage of and is conducted utilizing educational technology through the use of many of the digital tools and resources discussed above, including distance learning, social media, videos, and numerous curricular websites. Teachers use these resources to share teaching tools, including lesson plans, activities, strategies for classroom and behavior management, and content/subject specific resources.

Professional development is essential to the successful and effective implementation of any type of educational technology. Teachers who are expected to use technology must initially be trained to use it. They must be provided with the right tools and resources, supported throughout their use of it and encouraged to and perhaps incentivized to use it.

Examples

- **Teachers Pay Teachers:** A lesson marketplace where teachers can sell and buy lessons. www.teacherspayteachers.com
- **Pinterest:** Although not specifically for education, this has become a widely used tool for teachers to share lessons, activities, resources, and photos of everything from popular projects to classroom setup and design. www.pinterest.com

“You can learn about a tool but you need to know what it can do. I need someone who can handhold and sit with me and create... You never ever invest in any tech if professional development is not a part of the program.”

TZVI PITTINSKY, THE FRISCH SCHOOL



- **Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) Online Professional Development Programs:** Two-week programs, each of which explores a key concept or practice of particular relevance for today's K-12 educators. www.gse.harvard.edu/ppe/two-week-online-programs

Related Jewish Tools²⁵

- **Hakaveret Jewish Education Innovation Challenge:** The formation of a team of educators from a variety of backgrounds charged with a year-long process to develop multiple innovative and engaging models for delivering Judaic education in Jewish day schools that will then be piloted in North American schools. Team members participate in a variety of workshops and conferences and receive stipends. <http://www.jewishchallenge.org/hakaveret/>
- **BetterLesson/AVI CHAI Partnership:** Created in partnership with the PD organization BetterLesson, this program helps teachers implement blended and personalized learning in their classrooms. Includes a two-day Design Studio, ongoing virtual coaching, and bi-weekly meetings. <http://avichai.org/2016/01/personalized-coaching-in-blended-learning-for-jds-teachers/>
- **The iCenter for Israel Education:** Aimed specifically at Israel education, this organization offers a plethora of resources including learning and lesson resources and professional development. <http://www.theicenter.org/>
- **Jerusalem EdTech Symposium PD Program:** An Israel-based PD program aimed specifically at using technology in Jewish education. A variety of options are available including webinars, asynchronous courses, and school-based workshops. www.jetsisrael.com/professional-development-opportunities/
- **Mofet Jewish Teacher Education Community/International Portal of Teacher Education:** Online portal aimed at collecting and curating research and publications in the field of education. <http://mofetinternational.macam.ac.il/jtec/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE):** CIJE does a variety of professional development work including in-school trainings, summer workshops, and informational resources such as the CIJE Teacher's Lounge, an online portal. <http://www.thecije.org/>
- **New CAJE:** Yearly conference and resources for Jewish educators across denominations and settings including schools, camps, JCCs, afterschool programs, and online programs. <http://www.newcaje.org/>
- **The DigitalJ Learning Network:** A variety of PD opportunities aimed specifically at helping Jewish studies teachers use technology in their classrooms. <http://digitaljlearning.org/professional-development>
- **Jewish New Teacher Project Online Mentor Training:** An online support community and mentorship program as part of the Jewish New Teacher Project, which offers support, mentorship, and professional development for new teachers in Jewish schools. <http://www.jntp.org/jntp/program-highlights>
- **New Media in Jewish Studies:** Previously mentioned, this program offers PD and training for participating professors and teachers. <http://newmediajewishstudies.org/>
- **JTeach:** Online Jewish teacher resource center, launched in 2013 by the Board of Jewish Education/ Marshall Jewish Learning Center (MJLC), to help teachers across the nation gain digital access to high quality, innovative resources and projects. <http://jteach.org/>
- **Jewish Education Project Teen Webinars:** Webinars for youth educators focusing on topics relevant to teens. <https://www.jewishedproject.org/teen-engagement>

²⁵ Many of the educational resources and websites above also include professional development components.

- **Jewish Education Project Virtual Network:** Facilitator-led groups for different kinds of Jewish educators on a variety of topics including prayer, team leading, and design thinking. <https://www.jewishedproject.org/networks>
- **Foundation for Jewish Camp Knowledge Center:** A variety of digital tools for camp leaders and staff, including webinars and resources on range of topics such as sports, LGBT issues, social activism, and character building. http://www.jewishcamp.org/knowledgecenter?field_resource_topic_tid=20
- **Jerusalem U:** Israel advocacy resources for teens, college students, and adults including video courses and participation in webinars. One program includes financial incentives for college students' participation. <http://college.jerusalemu.org/>, <http://college.jerusalemu.org/iio>
- **BBYO Jewish Enrichment Institute:** Training for teen leaders including in-person and online convenings. <http://bbyo.org/azabbg/iln/jei2017/>
- **Hillel International Online Resources:** Hillel provides a range of resources and webinars for Hillel staff. <http://www.hillel.org/get-involved/work-for-hillel/the-hillel-professional-experience>
- **Pardes Hillel Professionals Course:** An online course for Hillel professionals, focusing on conflict resolution. <http://pcjcr.pardes.org/courses/hillel-professionals/>
- **Interfaith Youth Core Webinars:** Webinars for college staff, including Hillel staff related to interfaith activities. An example of a webinar is: "How to Hold an Interfaith Shabbat (and What to Do After It's Over)." The site explains this course is in development with Hillel International. <https://www.ifyc.org/content/co-host-webinar>

Further Suggestions for Jewish Education

- Respond to educators' requests for incentives for participation in PD, including credit, monetary incentives, or participation in fellowships.
- Create opportunities for pre-, mid-, and perhaps even post-PD sessions so teachers can successfully use educational technologies as well as share impressions after using them, providing suggestions for improvements.
- Create mentorships or partnerships between tech-savvy and less tech-savvy teachers and even a "geek-squad" of students.
- Consult teachers, educators, and administrators to find out their needs and wants for Ed Tech in their schools and classrooms. Consider collaborating with them to create tools.
- Combine PD with hackathons, getting teachers excited about technology in their classroom while also using their input.
- Short-burst PD aimed at specific Ed Tech skills or topics are likely to be appealing and effective for in-service teachers.
- Collaborate with general ed PD organizations, similar to the Better Lesson/AVI CHAI program.