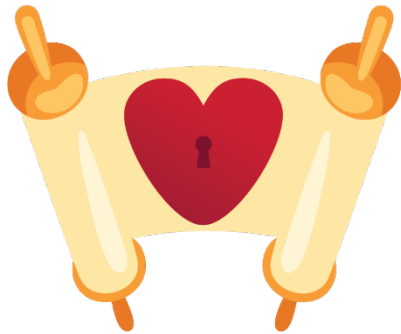


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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING TEACHER PILOT PROGRAM, 5783

Program description and application for pilot teachers.



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Contents

Program Overview

Cover Letter.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Pilot Overview	4
Program Structure	4
Program Requirements.....	5
Program Fees.....	6
How to Apply	6
Summary Chart.....	7



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Introduction

Dear Teacher,

With gratitude to Hashem, and to all those whose hard work and support have brought us to this place, we are pleased to introduce you to the **Heart of C.H.I.N.U.C.H.** pilot program for Social-Emotional Learning in frum Yeshiva / Day schools.

The foremost challenge facing our students today is social emotional learning (SEL). Jewish education has always prioritized inner growth and character building, but our research and experience has shown that this is a skill set that can no longer be taken for granted. While many programs exist to promote SEL in a school environment, there is a need for a program that is presented through the lens and language of **Torah and Chassidus**, as well as that takes into account **school culture and practical implementation** to ensure the program's long term impact.

In 2021, we embarked on a pilot program to simultaneously develop curriculum for such a program, while implementing it in select schools. We have been successful thus far in building a rich, multisensory curriculum for one year of this program, and it is currently being piloted in 7 classrooms around the U.S.

"The new SEL curriculum is shaping up to be a truly fabulous program. It includes some of the best SEL concepts... My students look forward to our SEL time."

Mrs. Rivka Fishman, SEL pilot teacher,
and Director of Judaic Studies at Torah Day School, Houston, TX

The project's goal is to deliver a multilayered program, which includes:

1. **High quality, Torah based SEL lesson plans to be delivered throughout the school week, incorporating diverse learning styles, multimedia, and differentiation.**
2. **Comprehensive in-person and online training and support for teachers delivering this curriculum.**
3. **Comprehensive professional development for teachers and school leaders, in improving their own sensitivity, awareness and modeling of healthy SEL.**

As we continue to develop the curriculum, gathering feedback and revising year 1 and developing new materials for year 2, we are excited to broaden our pilot and invite a small number of additional schools and teachers on board. The purpose of this pilot phase is to ensure that the program is developed in a way that is consonant with the needs of our own school community, and to benefit from the feedback of high performing teachers and schools.

We invite you to apply to take part in this innovative pilot, and join us in building the emotional health and personal success of your students. While ideal implementation would take place school wide,

ultimately, the success of the program and a child's emotional growth at school rests in the hands of the teachers. For this reason, in addition to up to 5 schools joining the pilot program this year, we are inviting up to 5 individual teachers as well to partner with us this year in piloting the program.

As a pilot SEL teacher, you will be a trailblazer in Chabad Chinuch, raising the ceiling for what teachers can aim for in terms of a positive and growing school culture that permeates the classrooms, playgrounds, hallways and beyond. You will have exclusive access to this program several years before it goes to at large, and will have an important voice in how this program evolves and grows.

We would like to extend tremendous hakaras hatov to **Mrs. Henny Bartfield**, who is spearheading this program, bringing her expertise and success in classroom teaching, curriculum writing, and educational therapy to building a pedagogically sound, evidence based, and highly effective program. We would also like to thank our consultants on this project, **Mrs. Nami Friedman, Mrs. Shiffy Landa, Rabbi Yanky Raskin LMSW and Rabbi Dovid Dinerman ABA-BCBA**, as well as all of the principals and teachers piloting this program, and our anonymous donors who have seeded the project and helped set it in motion.

"...Training and education in the divine service, the fulfillment of mitzvot, and the development of **proper character traits such as mercy, decency and ethics** should be initiated from early youth. This includes showing proper respect to all, each according to his rank, and similarly with regard to other ethical matters, interpersonal as well as spiritual. Then, when he is old, he will not depart from it; rather a person will grow stronger and more adept in his practice."

Maamar Chanoch Lenaar of the Rebbe Rashab, Perek Aleph

As we currently stand during the time period of Sefiras Haomer, when we introspect and refine the Middos that build us into who we are, there is no better time to commit to focusing on the social-emotional growth of our students. **Principals surveyed by MEF unanimously agreed that social-emotional learning is the number one priority for Chinuch today**, as it is the gateway to all other forms of spiritual, academic, and personal success. We invite you to join us in year 2 of this pilot in order to prioritize SEL and integrate it fully into the Chinuch that we provide, with Hashem's help, and the Rebbe's Brachos.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Chanah Rose
Educational Director

Teacher Pilot Overview

In 5782 (the 2021-22 school year), MEF successfully launched and piloted the first stage of the Heart of C.H.I.N.U.C.H. SEL program. After a trial in 2 schools and 2 independent classrooms (a total of 7 classes in grades 1-6), MEF will be expanding the pilot to **up to 5 schools and up to 5 independent classrooms**, as we concurrently develop a second year of curriculum for this program. (This document is intended individual teachers who would like to pilot this program in your classroom. If more than one teacher in your school would like to join, please ask your school to apply for the school-based track of this pilot.)

As each curricular module is prepared, it can then be implemented in real time, in order to bring immediate benefit to students of participating classrooms. Meanwhile, teachers can convey feedback back to MEF so that it can be incorporated in future iterations of the curriculum. For this reason, **we are looking for teachers in grades 1-6, who show excellence in overall pedagogy and specifically in understanding students' SEL needs.** Please note:

1. The pilot is viewed as a partnership between MEF and the school. Thus, it is essential to have two way communication to ensure that the lessons are properly conveyed to the participating teachers, and their feedback can then be conveyed in return back to MEF. This year's program is benefitting greatly from the input of year 1's pilot schools and teachers, and by broadening our pool of participants we hope to gain from even more feedback in order to further grow the program.
2. Of course, a pilot is only meaningful if the program is followed fully, so that the feedback reflects the program as it is intended to take place. It is also important for pilot schools and teachers to serve as a model for future schools joining the program, showcasing its potential for positive impact and SEL success. For this reason, there will be program checkpoints after each semester (3 times a year) based on the program structure and timeline delineated below.

While most of the teachers participating in this program will be joining through their schools, we are excited to allow for additional teachers who show strength in this area to come on board regardless of their school's readiness at this point. This opportunity will benefit your students with early access to the program while also benefitting the program through your feedback. We look forward to partnering with you in prioritizing social-emotional learning - the entry point that allows all other learning to be successful - in Chabad Chinuch.

Program Structure

As a teacher, you will be receiving comprehensive training to build your own capacity in SEL, a comprehensive and multi-sensory curriculum for one full year of teacher, and additional training and support in implementing the curriculum. Please note that MEF will provide the classroom materials and media necessary to make this program classroom ready, to pave the way for successful implementation. Through extensive research and on-the-ground school trials, MEF has found that the following additional elements are most conducive to the success of this pilot program:

- 1) Teaching **experience** and excellence.
- 2) Scheduled **teaching time** to deliver this program.
- 3) Allotted **time to meet** with MEF staff.
- 4) Allotted time for **professional development**.
- 5) **Approval** of your principal/school leadership to join.

Program Details

1. Pilot Teacher

For the purposes of the pilot program, we are looking for strong and experienced teachers to participate. A safe and organized classroom is a prerequisite for healthy SEL, and while these skills can be learned, it is not within the current scope of the pilot program to teach them at the same time as our SEL goals. Therefore, the teachers participating should have at least 5 years of experience, run a safe and organized classroom, and be skilled and engaging educators. We are also looking for teachers who have shown previous interest and sensitivity to the area of SEL. The teacher should be a homeroom teacher who is with the same class for at least half a day throughout the week. At this point, the program can be piloted in grades 1-6.

2. Teaching Time

Many SEL programs out there introduce "hit-and-run" lessons, weekly or even less frequently, into the teaching schedule, but in order to achieve lasting impact it is important that SEL be taught and reinforced more frequently, as well as integrated within the overall curriculum. For these reasons, teachers need to schedule at least an hour and a half weekly for this program (divided into 2-3 lessons). This should be at regular scheduled times, not "squeezed in" whenever there is extra time to fill.

3. Meeting Time

The teacher should allocate up to 30 minutes a week to communicating with MEF staff, in order to receive instructions on upcoming lessons and share valuable feedback on previous lessons.

4. Professional Development

MEF will be providing a series of professional development sessions over the course of the year, both online and in person. They will include:

- A 2-day summer training, in person. (Training for women will take place on י"ג – י"ד תמוז / July 12-13, in conjunction with the Kinus Mechanchos Chabad, in Stamford, CT. The date and location for the men's summer training will be announced at a later date.)
- An additional 5 hours of independent learning will be assigned and required prior to the summer training in Stamford, as well as 5 hours independently before the start of the school year.
- A 2-day winter training, in person, date and location TBD.
- 8 monthly online workshops of 2 hours each.

5. Approval from School Leadership

While we value your contribution as an individual educator piloting this program, it is important for your school leadership to similarly value and support this undertaking on your part. You may need to miss school days for the winter PD, or have coverage for your class in case there is a scheduling conflict for the monthly webinars. We are confident that your school will be excited to have teachers who are growing in their SEL capacity, leading the way for other teachers to follow suit in the future. Please review your participation and requirements with your school leadership so they can officially sign off on your participation in the program.

Program Fees

The school based fee of \$5,400 for the complete curriculum **is waived** for individual teachers not joining through a school. The professional development package has a cost of \$500 per participant, which will similarly be waived for participating schools and teachers, contingent on the checkpoints three times a year, as stated above. In summary, MEF is not charging any fees for qualifying pilot teachers this year.

There are additional costs associated with the program, which may include the following:

- 1) Transportation if necessary to the two in person training summits.
- 2) Cost of online, independently viewed PD to purchase from non-MEF sources that we may require (up to \$350).
- 3) Coverage if needed for your class if meetings or PD take place during class time.

We encourage you to request of your school to cover these costs, and they may be able to access title or other funding sources to do so. If you need any assistance in covering any of these costs, please contact the MEF office.

MEF will provide all materials and media to make this program classroom ready. Since the success of the pilot is ultimately in the hands of the teachers who are delivering the program and providing us with valued feedback, **MEF will show our appreciation to teachers who do so with a token of \$540 per teacher upon successful completion of this pilot year.** Successful schools and teachers will also be celebrated and showcased to other schools in order to inspire excellence in SEL and encourage other schools to join the program in the future.

How to Apply

- Please fill out the application form on this google form by **מ"ד ט"ו – May 31**: [Teacher SEL Pilot Application Form](#)
- Schools and teachers accepted will be notified by **מ"ד ט"ו – June 13**. At that point, you will receive the independent study requirements to complete before the summer training.
- In order to reserve your space in the pilot program, we ask that you confirm your participation and by **מ"ד ט"ו – June 23**.

Summary Chart

The following is a summary chart to make it easier for you to review all program details with your school leadership team and check them off as you go.

Reviewed	When	What
	By ר"ח סיון – May 31	Submit application
	By י"ד סיון – June 13	Notification of acceptance
	by כ"ד סיון – June 23	Confirmation of participation
	By י"ג תמוז – July 12	5 hours of independent learning
	י"ג / July 12-13	In-person training for women
	Summer – Date and Location TBD	In-person training for men
	By ה' אלול - Sept. 1 st	5 hours of independent learning (Principal, SEL Director, and Pilot Teachers)
	Throughout the Year - Pilot Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly webinars - 2 hours each, 8 times a year Weekly meeting with MEF staff – 30 minutes Weekly lessons – 1 and ½ hours a week
	Winter - Date and Location TBD	2 Day in-person training
	End of שבט, חשוון and אייר	Checkpoints for participation - provide data as requested
	סיון – End of school year	\$540 token of appreciation awarded to pilot teachers who successfully completed all three checkpoints.

If you have any questions about this program or application form, please do not hesitate to contact us (718-819-6169 / c.rose@mymef.org). You can view program details online at <https://mymef.org/social-emotional-learning>.