

Chicago Schools to Benefit from Crown-AVI CHAI Matching Grants Program

The [Crown Family Philanthropies](#) of Chicago is partnering with [The AVI CHAI Foundation](#) to offer matching gifts aimed at inspiring local donors and raising new major gifts for Chicago Jewish day schools.

Through the partnership, Crown and AVI CHAI together are committing \$400,000 in 1:2 matching funds to the first \$800,000 in new donations, thereby infusing the Chicago day school system with at least \$1.2 million. Through this partnership, each foundation is leveraging its own investment by three times.

[MATCH](#) presents a unique opportunity for local donors to increase the value of a gift of \$10,000 or more, with a matching rate of 50 cents to the dollar. Through the program, schools can qualify for as much as \$50,000 of additional funding.

“MATCH Chicago has given us the added confidence to reach out to existing donors and deepen the conversation, as well as the incentive to identify and cultivate new donors. Donors and prospects are pleased to hear about the match and the opportunity for their gift to have a much greater impact,” said Debbie Schneider, Director of Development at Akiba Schechter.

“Our hope is to encourage new circles of donors to recognize and support the critical role that Chicago day schools play in producing the next generation of Jewish leaders,” said Lesley Said Matsa, Program Officer of the Crown Family Philanthropies. “We are honored to be a part of this team.”

Deena K. Fuchs, AVI CHAI’s Director of Strategic Partnerships, noted that the partnership is part of AVI CHAI’s current strategy of working with local and national philanthropists to strengthen Jewish day schools.

“We are delighted to partner with the Crown Family Philanthropies in this initiative. We are providing not only funding, but expertise to help the schools maximize the match, broaden their donor base, and strengthen their fundraising capacities,” Fuchs said. “We see this as one model for working in partnership with like-minded philanthropists to strengthen the field at the local level. We welcome the opportunity to explore this model with other funders and communities.”