



SOLOMON SCHECHTER
DAY SCHOOL
OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO
בית הספר ש. זלמן שכתור

Suzanne Mishkin, Director of K-2 & 3-4 She'arim Attends Harvard Leadership Institute

July 19, 2017



Suzanne Mishkin, Director of K-2 & 3-4 She'arim of Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago, has just returned from Cambridge, MA, where she participated in Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership, a seminar at the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Principals' Center for emerging leaders. This weeklong institute is part of a larger, year-long program to enable day school leaders to improve their schools, with special focus on their Jewish mission and vision, sponsored and facilitated by the [AVI CHAI Foundation](#).

The AVI CHAI Foundation, a New York-based private foundation dedicated to promoting Jewish commitment, sponsored Mishkin and 17 other eligible day school administrators from around the country to attend the seminar to help address the professional development of day school leaders with a particular emphasis on their role in promoting the Jewish mission of their schools.

Participants attended lectures and discussion groups led by Harvard faculty, educational consultants and school practitioners. The program focuses on the challenges facing new school leaders and supports participants as they develop skills for leadership. Rigorous study is combined with writing, reflection and peer interaction, allowing participants to identify priorities and share ideas and solutions. In addition they attended AVI CHAI sessions, facilitated by Jonathan Cannon, former head of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, MD, applying what was learned at Harvard to the Jewish purpose of their schools.

Professional development is a key focus at Solomon Schechter Day School to help faculty and staff build their leadership skills and continue to grow. “It was a wonderful experience for me,” said Mishkin. “It was a great week of learning and growing, and I’m excited to bring back what I learned to Schechter.”

Mem Bernstein, Chairman of AVI CHAI’s Board of Trustees, says, “Strong instructional leadership is critical to achieving AVI CHAI’s goal of enhancing the Jewish education provided by day schools. Through these institutes we aim to provide Jewish day school leaders with an intensive opportunity to reflect on school leadership with leading academics and with practitioners from across North America.”