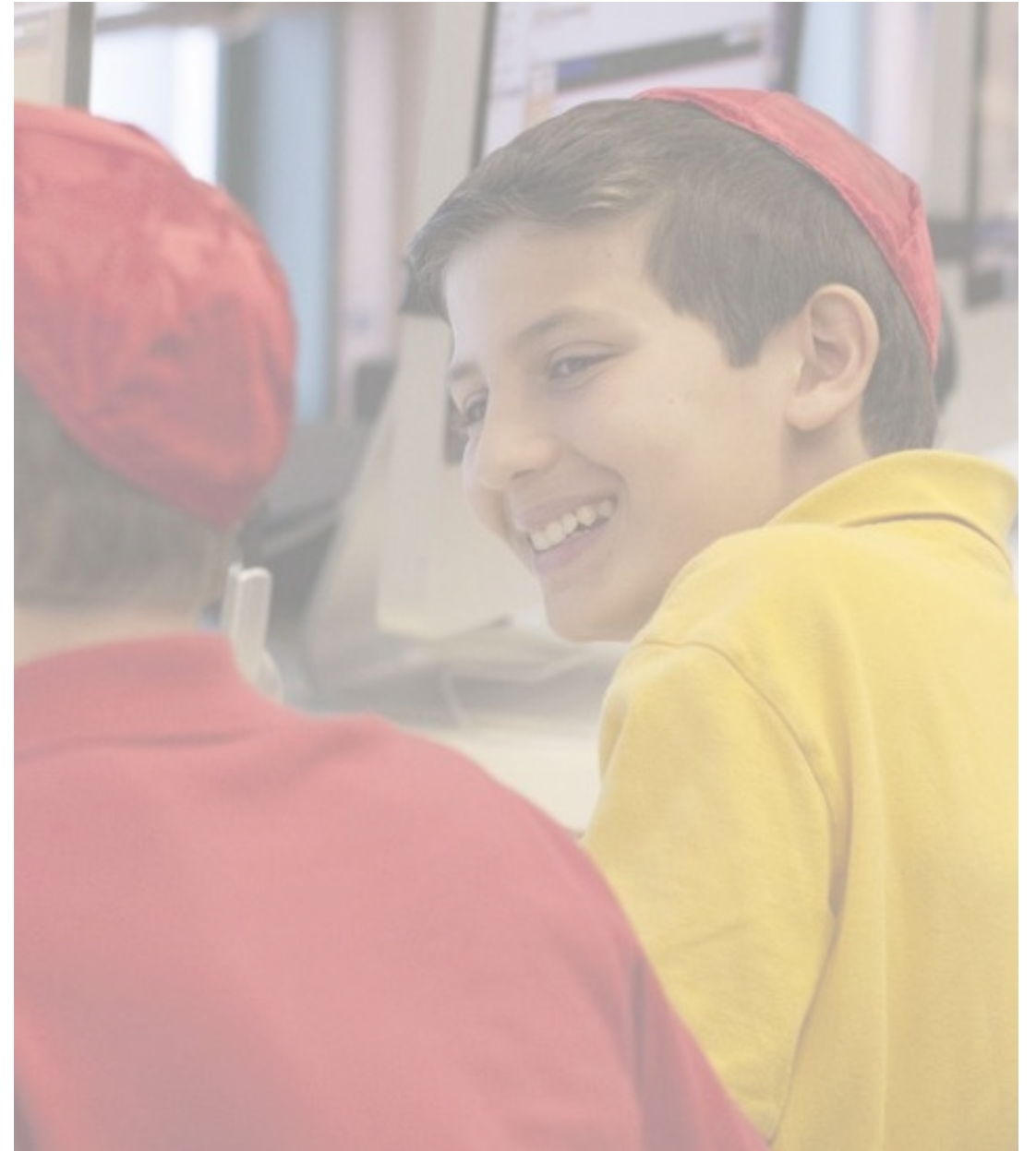


PA House Appropriations and Education
Committee Hearing
Allegheny Traditional Elementary Academy
October 5, 2023

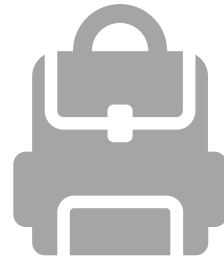
Pittsburgh Jewish Educational Improvement Foundation



10,300+ Students Impacted



Since 2001, over 10,300 scholarships have been awarded to students at local day schools across the Jewish community through EITC



Each year, about 500-630 students receive Pre-K and K-12 scholarships



Families apply using FACTS, making back-end management much simpler than it used to be



Partner Schools: K-12



For 2022-2023, **512** scholarships were awarded to students at Jewish day schools in Pittsburgh

Community
Day School



Hillel Academy



Yeshiva Schools



PITTSBURGH JEWISH
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FOUNDATION

Partner Schools: Pre-K

Congregational Programs



Jewish East Suburban Preschool (JESP)

4415 Northern Pike
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 372-1281
jesp@jespreschool.com

JCC Programs



Jewish Day Schools



For 2022-2023, **139** Pre-K scholarships were awarded to children attending these ten programs



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PJEIF Distributions 2022-2023

Awarded

K-12: 512 scholarships, totaling \$651,501

OSTC: 42 scholarships, totaling \$266,730

Pre-K: 139 scholarships, totaling \$341,315

Average Award

K-12: \$1,272 per student, addressing 7.85%-10.15% of need, depending on program

OSTC: \$6,350 per student, addressing 42% of need

Pre-K: \$600-\$2,966 per student depending on program, addressing 24.1% of need





Trends

- Meeting less of the need year-to-year due to tuition growth and difficulty of getting new donors into the program
- Dependency on the program:
 - Jewish day school a must-have for many families, who would consider moving if not for existence of scholarships
 - Some Jewish day schools in our community have just a handful of full-pay families



Challenges

- Staffing
- Schools dependent on EITC dollars
- Donor stewardship and uncertainty around entry into program and renewals
- Communication with donors, especially around approvals
- Communication with families around applying for scholarships



Recommendations



Create online portal for firms to review status and submit documentation



Automate process for approval letters



Let scholarship organizations view firms' status



Improve user interface of website to more easily locate application



Administrative Allowance



PJEIF takes an admin fee of 7.5%



Pays part of cost to administer the program (currently about 1/2)



Reducing admin allowance to 10% would not affect our implementation of the program



Report Data

Currently report: # applications, # scholarships granted, County (Allegheny)

Generally, the FACTS program makes collecting and reporting the requested data quite simple

- Scholarship awards by family household income
- Share of tuition offset by scholarship
- School district of scholarship recipient





Report Data

Items that would be more burdensome:

- Change in student outcomes or academic achievement after switch
 - Schools would likely struggle to measure this.
- Whether students denied scholarships would attend the school regardless – difficult to measure



Improving Pennsylvania's Education System

Strengthening early childhood education through programs that are high-quality, as well as accessible and affordable

- Competitive compensation and benefits for full-time educators, on-par with K-12 teacher rates of pay
- Fewer children in each classroom
- Highly-subsidized (or free) tuition to ensure more diverse and multicultural community



Thank You!

Shelly Parver

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