

16 QUICK FIXES FOR YOUR SCHOOL BUDGET IN A DIFFICULT ECONOMY

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1. Centralize purchases of supplies for better pricing? Contact your Regional USCJ Executive Director and see if there is economy of scale if congregations place centralized orders.
2. Patronize warehouse vendors and box discount stores for perishables and consumables.
3. Ask students to bring and store their own personal school supplies. Parents can be asked to contribute paper goods or specific items to school programs.
4. Align school fees with the averages in your area? Statistics show that the average cost to educate a student in a 5 ½-6 hour per week religious school program is approximately \$1140 per year. Offering early bird tuition discounts for full tuition payment by April helps cash flow.
5. Require children to start religious school in Kindergarten assuring earlier membership, additional tuition and a longer, more sustained educational advantage for the student.
6. Prepare for the opportunity of finding grant money locally and nationally. Schools should always have at least one 'ready to go' generic grant written at all times.
7. Solicit endowment funding for classes, classrooms and programs.
8. Solicit corporate sponsorships for various activities like; back to school night; Chanukah Program, Model Passover Seder, Consecration; Graduation.
9. Go paperless for most flyers and announcements. Stamps are expensive. Almost everything can be done on the computer these days. Create on line RSVP and payment system.
10. Set a fund raising goal for your PTA.
11. Can you combine small classes and create a two-year rotating track?
12. Can you utilize the expertise and wisdom of the Rabbi, Cantor and Education Director on an ongoing basis allowing you to eliminate some faculty positions?
12. Have students purchase their own textbooks.
13. Can volunteers provide routine administrative assistance?
14. Collect specialty *kippot* left from B'nai Mitzvah in your congregation. Or, run a twice a year Kippah Return Day, when families search through their house and return all of the

kippot that have been borrowed over the year. (To prevent concern about head lice, put returned kippot in Ziploc bags and freeze for 48 hours. They will be sanitized for further use).

15. Consider making/buying tablecloths that are laundered at home by volunteers after each use.
16. Solicit sponsorship for Kiddishes and Onegs by congregants celebrating special occasions or honoring loved ones.