Transforming Jewish Education from Every Angle
If our doors are open to all Jewish children and their families?

If children of all abilities learn together in Jewish educational classrooms?

Leading the Way

What can the Jewish community look like...
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education provides high-quality special education services, expertise and support to enable students with diverse learning needs to succeed in Jewish educational settings and participate meaningfully in Jewish life.
Building Meaningful Connections

Gateways’ acclaimed Sunday and B’nei Mitzvah programs offer Boston area students with learning challenges an open door to Jewish rituals and traditions.

“We turned to Gateways when our son, who loves prayers and discovering the Jewish holidays and traditions, began to struggle with the increasingly serious curriculum at our temple’s religious school. Once he began attending the Gateways Sunday and B’nei Mitzvah programs, it was obvious that we had made a good decision. Everything about Gateways has been key to our son’s success: teachers with special education expertise, the support of a trained and enthusiastic teen volunteer dedicated to him, a carefully tailored program and curriculum and a class with peers like him. Gateways is a great place for our son to shine.

Gateways even worked closely with our temple to prepare for his bar mitzvah service, and tailored an individualized program for him. Gateways has provided an entryway for our son to participate fully and actively in Jewish learning. He will always have the background and confidence he has gained here.”

- Leah and Len, Parents

We Welcome Students of All Abilities by...

- Providing Sunday school programming to students with a wide range of disabilities and learning challenges, in a welcoming and supportive atmosphere, with 1:1 support from trained teen volunteers.
- Creating individualized learning paths towards b’nei mitzvah.
- Working with synagogues and clergy to facilitate b’nei mitzvah in families’ home congregations or in locations of their choosing.
- Offering a proprietary phonetics-based approach to Hebrew learning, as appropriate for students.
- Empowering students who are non-verbal to learn to sign or “recite” prayers with an iPad or an augmentative communication device.

It’s been amazing to find a group of people who understand our son and who get how much he loves the Jewish traditions, prayers, songs and blessings.

- Leah and Len, Parents
Our son is now in a community that is loving and supporting him and is infused with Jewish values that are the essence of our family.

- JULIE AND LAURA, PARENTS

Gateways works in partnership with Jewish day schools to make it possible for children with mild-to-moderate learning, social and emotional challenges to thrive in Jewish educational environments.

“We are a family that loves learning. It is at the core of who we are, in both our secular and our Jewish selves. Early on in our son’s education, it was clear that he was going to require additional learning support. We didn’t know that a Jewish day school could be an option. After struggling in other settings, and with our son about to enter middle school, we reached out to a Jewish day school that partners with Gateways to provide therapies and other student services.

After just one conversation, we knew that they were going to be able to meet our son’s educational needs. Gateways and the school professionals work and collaborate with one another, speak the same language and support kids in the same way. There’s real academic rigor here. He’s learning the same material as his peers, and it’s being modified as needed. Our son is not going to slip through the cracks. He’s not going to be given a pass. He’s going to be asked to stretch, at his pace.”

- Julie and Laura, Parents

We Support Students, Teachers and Families by...

• Helping to identify learning challenges early, intervene rapidly and keep students progressing at grade level.

• Positioning Gateways professionals on-site during the school day to provide students with literacy support, behavior consultation and occupational, speech and language therapies.

• Coaching and mentoring administrators and classroom teachers to help recognize needs, design lessons that target a diversity of learners and build school cultures that support all students.
We Promote Inclusive Schools by...

• Sharing best practices and knowledge to support Jewish schools of all sizes and varieties.
• Offering assessments and institution-wide program reviews to schools across North America.
• Providing focused and extended coaching and consultation to school administrators, teachers and lay leadership.
• Leading school teams through the process of identifying challenges, gaining consensus and building solutions unique to each educational community’s needs.

Gateways’ Center for Professional Learning coaches are experts in the fields of special education and differentiated instruction.

“My community partnered with Gateways to engage in the B’Yadenu whole-school planning initiative and Ambassadors for Inclusion disability awareness programming. Four of our day schools participated, and we chose Gateways because we were philosophically in line, educator to educator. Our schools knew where they wanted to go, and Gateways provided the tools and sequential structure that helped our educators and their leadership teams frame conversations. The process is very flexible, and within each institution and as a community we adjusted the materials to suit our needs. Each school was at a different point on their path, and some accessed direct mentoring from Gateways.

Inclusion is not something that sits in the Special Needs department. Everybody at a school needs to be on board with where a school is going philosophically. What’s really valuable is that these are full school initiatives. Inclusion is a journey; it’s not something you do and then you’re done with. Gateways provides a roadmap to help you start the journey, or, if you’re already on it, to take another step.”

- Lisa, Federation Community Disability Inclusion Specialist

We worked collaboratively—Federation, day schools and Gateways. That was very powerful, and it enabled us to learn and grow together.

- LISA, FEDERATION COMMUNITY DISABILITY INCLUSION SPECIALIST
A welcoming Jewish community starts with open-minded, informed peers. Gateways teaches the broader Jewish community to embrace differences.

“Sunday is my favorite day of the week; I look forward to it all week long. It’s so remarkable having the experience of connecting to my Gateways student, seeing how much growth she makes every week and how far she’s come from where we started. The day my student said the Shema independently was life-changing for me. I know how much went into saying that prayer that one time, and I feel so much joy and excitement because I was part of teaching it.

When I was choosing my community service, I had no idea that my time at Gateways would be filled with extraordinary moments. I am always learning from my weekly volunteer trainings and from the teacher whose class I’m in about prompting, using visual schedules, adapting my mindset and having fun with learning. Serving as a Gateways volunteer has also changed the way I approach my own school work and how I view myself and others. It has taught me to truly take someone else’s perspective. I can now really appreciate the small moments, because I have seen that even the smallest step can be a huge leap.”

- Shoshana, Teen Volunteer
Supporting schools and institutions across North America in welcoming and educating students with learning differences.

Collaborating with Jewish Federations to stimulate dialogue and facilitate partnerships between schools and synagogues across their communities.

Hosting workshops on mental health, wellness and modern parenting issues for families of school-aged children.

Sharing resources online and in our published books, *The Gateways Haggadah* and *The Gateways Shabbat Family Companion*, to offer all families access to Jewish ritual.

Working with day, congregational and preschools to offer on-site support and learning communities that enable Jewish educators to enhance their practices and support a diversity of learners.

Promoting inclusion for people of all abilities in Boston and beyond by...

Reach out to Gateways! Let us help you build a strong, inclusive community.

Transforming Jewish Education from Every Angle
Opening the Gates
to an Inclusive Jewish Community

Register Your Child
Become a Teen Volunteer
Engage in Professional Learning

Visit Us!
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#YES2Inclusion

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