

Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford



Head of School West Hartford, CT

About Schechter:

The Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford seeks a dynamic and outstanding professional to lead a dynamic and outstanding school. Founded fifty years ago, our school has earned a reputation for high quality Jewish day school education. The school is home to students from Early Childhood through eighth grade. Click [here](#) to learn more about our school in a video shared at our most recent Ner Tamid Gala, in April 2019.

The Mission of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford is to develop each child in an academically challenging and nurturing Jewish environment, so that each child applies learned wisdom and compassion to successfully navigate an ever-changing world.

Schechter is committed to the highest educational standards in both secular and Judaic studies as well as the Hebrew language. Schechter develops and instills in its students a deep and personal appreciation of their Jewish heritage as well as a connection with Israel.

Our school's faculty and staff are dynamic professionals, steeped in our progressive approach and committed to our values of chochmah (wisdom), lev tov (good heart), and klal yisrael (Jewish community). Our students experiment, explore, and develop habits of mind, heart, and spirit that make them who they will be as adults. Through the school's multi-age model and constructivist approach, they engage with a strong, innovative academic curriculum and also learn to be bold, creative, resilient, self-directed, and independent thinkers who are guided by a moral compass and sense of urgency to improve the world.

Families are attracted by Schechter's mission, sense of community, and record of achievement. The Head of School (HOS) will need to support and expand ongoing efforts to communicate the beauty and value of the school's educational experience and respond to the current challenges to increase enrollment demand. As well as supporting the current development, marketing, and admissions efforts, the HOS will play an important role in developing relationships and personally connecting the school more extensively in and around the Greater Hartford community.

The HOS serves as the educational and administrative leader and is responsible for promoting the success of all students and ensuring the delivery of excellence in all areas of the school. The HOS should be a charismatic leader who energizes and unites the school community (students, faculty, administration, lay

leaders, parents, alumni, and friends) and who upholds the school's values. The HOS's roles fall into four key categories:

- **Institutional Advancement:**

(1) **Development:** The HOS will excel at soliciting funds and cultivating new donors. The HOS will speak at key fundraising events and articulate the school's vision in different settings. The HOS will also recommend, monitor, and manage the school's annual and capital campaign fundraising goals and oversee the solicitation of educational and other grants as appropriate.

(2) **Enrollment:** The HOS will excel at soliciting prospective parents. The HOS will champion the school's marketing, admissions, and communications programs, speak at key recruitment events, and personally contact prospective parents. The HOS will also make current parents feel valued and part of an exceptional community.

- **Strategic Planning and Governance:** The HOS will plan for the future health and success of the school in partnership with the board of trustees. This includes implementing and maintaining strategic plans, inclusive of all school programs, operations, and finances. The HOS will oversee the school and carry out and communicate the school's mission and vision across the school community.

- **Education/Mission:** The HOS will oversee the continuous review of all curricula and programs in order to deliver a high-quality program in secular and Judaic/Hebrew studies, one that reflects best practices in education and is consistent with the school's mission, vision, and strategic plan. The HOS will inspire the school community and serve as a role model who upholds the school's values.

- **Personnel:** The HOS will hire, develop, motivate, and retain outstanding talent. The HOS will promote outstanding management and educational practices across the school and foster a trusting, collaborative culture of a professional learning community with staff and faculty.

Head of School Responsibilities

The HOS reports to the school's Board of Trustees and has the following responsibilities:

External:

- Advocate for the school in the Jewish and Greater Hartford communities as a spokesperson for and personification of the values of the school. Articulate the school's mission and values to the school's constituencies and to the general public.
- Continually expand the presence of Schechter in the wider community as a means of growing enrollment, increasing development opportunities and enhancing community outreach.

- Encourage, foster, and maintain meaningful connections with all constituencies of the school community such as teachers, staff, administrators, parents, board members, students, donors, alumni, and alumni parents.

Internal:

- Collaborate with and supervise the administrative staff, as listed below, to foster an atmosphere of creativity, collaboration, and innovation.
 - Director of Teaching and Learning: Ensure the continued excellence and development of the Schechter faculty and staff through recruitment, hiring, supervising, and ongoing performance evaluation
 - Admissions and Student Life Coordinator: Guide efforts to recruit and enroll new students and to retain current students by promoting the Schechter model for providing high quality, Jewish and general education opportunities.
 - Director of Finance and Facilities: Establish and maintain an understanding of the financial health of the school.
 - Director of Technology: Continue and enhance our expertise with educational technology.
 - Director of Development: Create successful fundraising campaigns that meet the financial needs of the school.
 - Early Childhood Director: Assure the curriculum is consistent with the Early Childhood philosophies and state-guided domains.
- Serve as the chief liaison between the school and its Board of Trustees by implementing Board decisions, reporting on pertinent issues, and overseeing strategic, long-range planning.
- Supervise and implement the school's educational curriculum and programs while advocating for the multi-age model and academic philosophy. Maintain and ensure accreditation and compliance with federal, regional and state regulations and standards.
- Oversee the professional growth and development of faculty and staff by identifying and emphasizing extraordinary professional development opportunities outside of the school and local communities.

Head of School Qualifications

To be an engaging leader of the Schechter community, to represent Schechter to the broader community, and to foster academic and social growth among the students and faculty, the successful Head of School will possess the following:

- A charismatic and dynamic presence with the ability to build relationships both internally and externally.

- A demonstrated ability to interact and engage dynamically in the school and the broader community.
- Excellence as an educator and educational administrator.
- An entrepreneurial and data-driven mindset and skillset capable of understanding Schechter's enrollment and financial needs and spearheading the recruitment and development efforts.
- An overwhelming commitment to Schechter's mission and the core values of chochmah (wisdom), lev tov (good heart), and klal Yisrael (Jewish community).
- A strong commitment and the ability to both work collaboratively with and delegate responsibilities appropriately to support staff and faculty.
- Approachable, articulate, and persuasive communication and interpersonal skills that can engage the school and broader communities and generate buy-in of the school's philosophies and direction.
- Ability to see the "big picture" and maintain a strategic overview in addressing problems and planning solutions in a results-oriented manner. Vision to develop and advocate for new, imaginative, and unique solutions.

The Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford is located in West Hartford, Connecticut, a vibrant town with a warm and welcoming community. West Hartford was recently highlighted in the New York Times for its family-friendly lifestyle, exciting downtown, and low cost of living.

Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford
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To apply, please send cover letter, resume/CV, and educational philosophy statement to:

Head of School Search Committee
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