



Mifras

Crafting an educational system in Israel that adequately serves an increasingly diverse population has long been a challenge. That's why JFN has been excited to work with Mifras, an incubator for entrepreneurship in education, whose great work will be discussed at the JFN conference.

Bringing an entrepreneurial model into schools may sound like a goal that is lofty yet unattainable in the face of standardized tests and curricula that are the norms in many classrooms. Yet, it is increasingly viewed as a key component for improving the quality of education. That's the goal behind Mifras, which believes that school principals, rather than supervisors in a central office, can be the best drivers of meaningful change. The premise: they and their teachers are best equipped to know what works and what doesn't for their unique student populations and should be allowed to tool lesson plans accordingly.

The incubator established by Mifras allows educators to acquire the knowledge they need to implement an effective education plan and have it supported by key stakeholders, including parents, lawmakers, and the centralized education bureaucracy they work under.

Most philanthropists who work in the education arena can tell you that efforts at reform are fraught with peril. What Mifras is attempting to accomplish is as necessary as it is audacious. It's a model designed to work in Israel, but its best practices can be applied elsewhere. For principals and teachers frustrated by the status quo, that is an important lesson to learn.