



OPENING SESSION: INTRODUCTION AND PROGRESS REPORT

Introducing the agenda and presenting the background and discussion questions

2 NOVEMBER 2016, 08:30-09:00, DJANOGLY HALL, MISHKENOT SHA'ANANIM

The Trump Foundation assumed the task of helping the Israeli school system stop the decline of excellence in high school mathematics and science studies and jumpstart a significant improvement. While we focus on teachers and their training, we have also established partnerships with key players in the field to allow every student access to clinical teaching, a practice that places the student's learning at the center, thereby encouraging systemic change that will drive and support excellence.

Now, at the end of five years, the first stage is over. The number of students successfully completing the excellence tracks has returned to the high level from which the decline started in 2006. The Israeli Ministry of Education is spearheading a broad national program aimed at excellence in mathematics and science and is investing significant resources in it. There is broad public consensus, and key players are willing to lend a hand. Teachers are receiving full backing and support, and expectations of them are high.

This is therefore an appropriate point to stop and examine the past five years from a perspective of constructive criticism before embarking on the second five-year period. To do so, the foundation's advisory committee is gathering for two intensive days of discussions, during which we will raise and analyze key questions of concern.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. To what extent do teachers and programs accept the notion and practice of clinical teaching?
2. To what extent do school principals embrace the values and goals of the foundation and of the National program?
3. Where are the next 5,000 students who will further expand the circle of excellence?
4. Can we actually turn the dream of reducing social inequalities through excellence into a reality?
5. Which systemic elements are required for the current positive trajectory to take root?

As **background** to the discussion, we recommend reading the following:

- A. [Startup Nation at Risk: Five-Year Review – 2016](#)
- B. [Advisory Council Insights and Recommendations 2014](#)