

RAVSAK Forms Strategic Partnership with *Areyvut*

Started in September 2002, *Areyvut* is an organization that seeks to formally integrate the values of *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* into the world of Jewish education. To best accomplish this goal, *Areyvut* seeks to partner with administrators and educators of Jewish schools, to create programs and projects that best cater to each school's specific needs and interests. *Areyvut* reaches out to Jewish day schools and congregational schools of all denominations, in the belief that the transmission of these fundamental Jewish values to our children will benefit all Jews alike.

Areyvut is currently working with the Hillel Academy of Fairfield, Connecticut and the Solomon Schechter School of Westchester, New York. *Areyvut* has provided tailor-made programs for each school, including a staff-training workshop for both Judaic and general studies teachers on ways of incorporating *chesed*, *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* in the curriculum. Moreover, *Areyvut* is facilitating volunteer opportunities for the high school students, and working one-on-one with *Bnai Mitzvah* to help them find personal and fulfilling *chesed* and *tzedakah* projects with which to

mark their milestone. *Areyvut* has also developed and implemented a *Yom Iyun* for 5th-8th graders to proactively address the topic of hunger and learn "hands on" how to make a difference. Students organized food drives, as well as researched charitable organizations that combat hunger. Three additional programs are planned through the end of the year.

In addition to working with schools, *Areyvut* cosponsors with MACHAR a monthly networking event for educators and youth workers involved in *chesed* projects and service learning. *Areyvut* believes that to make *tikkun olam* a core practice of Jewish education, professionals need the opportunity to learn from each other, encourage each other and become a cadre of advocates. Our meetings involve exploration of Jewish and educational ideas, and case presentations of educational opportunities and dilemmas in our work.

Please visit the *Areyvut* website at www.aryevut.org.



No Child Left Behind: USDE Issues Guidance on Standards and Assessments



The U.S. Department of Education today released a question and answer document offering guidance on the standards and assessments provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act. Key questions relating to private schools include the following:

K-1. Do State academic standards apply to students attending private schools?

No. A State's academic standards do not apply to private schools. They apply to all public schools and public school children in the State, including the public schools and the public school children served under Title I.

K-2. Must States include students attending private schools in their academic assessment systems?

No. States are not required to include private schools, including those whose students receive services under Title I, part A, in their State academic assessment system.

If an LEA provides services to eligible private school students under Title I, part A, the LEA, must, through timely consultation with private school officials, determine how services to eligible private school students will be academically assessed and how the results of that assessment will be used to improve those services.

To read all the private school guidance and to download the entire document, visit CAPE's Web site at: <http://www.capenet.org/new.html>