



New Mechanchim Kollel

One of Kollel Ner Hamizrach's valuable new initiatives for the Atlanta community is the *Mechanchim Kollel*, a 90-minute daily learning session for a group of educators from local schools, including Torah Day School, Atlanta Jewish Academy and Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael. The goal of these study sessions is to give local Torah-teachers a chance to study *Gemara* as they did when they were in *yeshiva*, gaining clarity, inspiration and motivation through peer study.

Rabbi Naftali Estreicher, one of the educators who came up with the concept, says that having this opportunity is an integral part of fulfilling his role. "I believe that *Rabeim* (Torah educators) need to have a part of their day where they can sit down with a *chavrusah* (study partner) and learn on a higher level," he explains. "It's crucial for those who are in the trenches with students, focusing on their level and what they can understand, to have time to

grow, to have satisfaction from taking their own learning to the next level."

Rabbi Shalom Yosef Horowitz adds that the sessions provide educators with a chance to discuss the topics they are currently teaching and sharpen their knowledge of the subject matter with insights from other Rabbis and educators.

Rabbi Daniel Estreicher feels strongly that the Mechanchim Kollel is a great opportunity for the educators to learn after teaching all day. "These study sessions will help strengthen the knowledge of the *Rabeim*, as well as their spirit, which will hopefully show in the classroom." Rabbi Estreicher also stresses the beauty of two diverse groups coming together for learning. "The unity of *Klal Yisroel* is the most important thing," he adds, "and this is an opportunity for different *Yidden* (Jews) to learn together and share their lives."



Room shot of everyone learning together



Rabbi Michael Alterman and Rabbi Shalom Yosef Horowitz learn the Gemorah Sukkah together



Rabbi Akiva Gross and Rabbi Mordy Birnbaum