



Karen Tal

Karen Tal is the founder and director of Tovano B'Hinuch (Educational Insights), a unique initiative of professional educators and leaders of the Israeli hi-tech and general business community to affect positive change in schools in Israel's social and geographic periphery. The initiative seeks to break the equation between background and achievement by turning around schools in underserved communities. Tovano B'Hinuch is currently serving 15,500 students in 34 public schools in the urban and geographical periphery of Israel, including secular, national religious and Israeli Arab elementary and secondary schools.

Until September 2011, Tal served as principal of the Bialik-Rogozin Campus in southern Tel Aviv. Bialik-Rogozin received both national and international recognition of the school's pedagogic and social achievements. These achievements have been enabled not only by the committed and talented team of teachers at the school, but also by the public-private partnerships forged under Tal's vision and leadership, and the support and collaboration of numerous bodies: the Ministry of Education, the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality, the school's directorate, volunteers and donors.

In 2011, Bialik-Rogozin was awarded the National Education Prize by the Ministry of Education, and was the subject of the film "Strangers No More," which won the 2011 Oscar for Best Short Documentary. Tal was awarded the title of 2010 Honorary Fellow by the Ruppin Academic Center, and honorary doctorate from Ben Gurion University and was the recipient of the 2011 Charles Bronfman Prize, considered to be one of the most important and prestigious awards in the Jewish world. She is a graduate of the Mendel Institute for educational leadership, and holds an MA in Public and Educational Policy from the Hebrew University. Tal teaches a course in TAU for MA education students which focuses on the Tovano turnaround school model.

Karen is married and a mother of two.