

What Happens After the Workshop? A New Model of Continuous Teacher Coaching using AI

Schools invest substantial time, energy, and money in professional development. Faculty attend workshops, conferences, and in-service days led by skilled presenters. Teachers often leave with valuable ideas and genuine enthusiasm.

Then they return to school.

Classes must be taught, students need support, and daily responsibilities quickly take priority. Within weeks, even excellent professional development can fade.

The problem is not the quality of the workshop or the commitment of the teachers. Meaningful change requires sustained implementation, and most schools do not have the capacity to provide every teacher with ongoing coaching, reflection, and accountability.

That challenge is at the heart of **PD That Works**, an AI-powered coaching platform developed by Rabbi Yechiel Shaffer, an Azrieli graduate and the Founding Campus Rabbi at the Jewish Leadership Academy in Miami.

The idea began at Azrieli's AI Playground, held last summer at The Frisch School, where educators were encouraged to explore how artificial intelligence could address authentic challenges in Jewish education.

Rather than asking how AI might replace teachers, administrators, or instructional coaches, Rabbi Shaffer considered a different question:

“Could AI help schools sustain the impact of professional development after the workshop ends?”

School leaders increasingly recognize the value of sustained coaching for their own growth. Yet classroom teachers rarely have access to the same level of individualized support. Administrators and instructional coaches may want to provide it, but their time, resources and capacity are limited.

As a result, professional development often remains an event rather than becoming a process.

PD That Works is designed to bridge that gap.

After a professional-development session, each teacher works with an AI coach to turn a broad intention into a clear, measurable commitment tied to the teacher's own classroom.

The teacher then spends approximately five minutes each day reflecting with the coach:

What did I try?

What worked?

What obstacles emerged?

What should I adjust tomorrow?

Over time, these brief conversations create a sustained cycle of action, reflection, adjustment, and renewed action.

The platform does not replace human coaching. It supports the work that happens between meetings, observations, and conversations with school leaders.

It also creates a psychologically safe space for honest reflection. Because the AI coach is not a supervisor or evaluator, teachers can speak candidly about setbacks, uncertainty, and experimentation. Anything shared with the AI coach remains confidential and is not shared with a supervisor or an administrator.

Teachers retain ownership of their private coaching conversations and professional-growth records. School leaders receive aggregated reports showing broader trends in participation, implementation, progress, and recurring challenges without access to individual reflections.

This gives schools greater insight into what happens after professional development without turning coaching into surveillance. This offers school leaders data-informed trends that can help shape their thinking around how to invest in teacher growth, while also offering leaders robust ready-to-share tools for governance purposes.

PD That Works can extend professional learning a school already provides, or schools can use one of its turnkey professional-development programs. In either case, the workshop becomes the beginning of the work rather than its conclusion.

Lasting growth rarely happens because a teacher heard one compelling presentation. It happens when a teacher tries something new, reflects on the result, makes an adjustment, and tries again.

AI may make that kind of sustained, individualized support more accessible and scalable while preserving the essential role of human leadership.

To explore the platform, view the experience for teachers and school leaders, or try the free professional-development diagnostic, visit pdthatworks.com or contact Rabbi Shaffer (yechiel@pdthatworks.com) for more information.