

משרד העלייה והקליטה

Ministry of Aliyah and Integration



Information for Immigrant Students

7th Edition



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Ida Ben Shetreet - Director, Publications Department
Laura L. Woolf - Chief Editor, English Language Publications

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הופק על ידי

אגף מידע ופרסום

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Telephone Information Center (03) 9733333/*2994
e-mail:info@moia.gov.il



www.klita.gov.il

הודפס על ידי המדפיס הממשלתי

Special thanks to the Department of Immigrant Absorption of the Ministry of Education for their assistance in updating this booklet.

The “Compulsory Education Law”

The Compulsory Education Law (1949) requires all children between the ages of 3 to 16-17 (kindergarten through grade 12) to attend school. The State provides free education to children ages 3-4 in public kindergartens, and in official primary schools and high schools. Private, licensed kindergartens may be subsidized. For more information, contact the Information Line of the Ministry of Education. See Useful Addresses.

The Education System

Israel’s education system can be roughly divided into four streams: State, State Religious, Independent, and Independent Religious.

- In State schools, students study a core curriculum, as mandated by the Ministry of Education. The content and teaching methods are uniform as determined by State institutions.
- In State Religious schools, students also study the core curriculum; however, 40% of the total hours as mandated by the Ministry of Education are devoted to religious studies.
- Independent Education and Independent Religious institutions have the status of “recognized but not official” education, which means that they are not under the auspices of the State or the local authorities, but are supervised by the Ministry of Education, receive funding from the State, and in most cases, teach the core curriculum.
- Schools that are unofficial and not recognized by the Ministry of Education include those run by various religious groups. These schools do not adhere to the basic state curricula, but follow their own curricula and use their own pedagogical methods, with no Ministry of Education intervention. Ministry supervision of these schools is of a general nature, principally concerning building maintenance.
- In addition to the above, there are also integrated State Schools where religious and non-religious students attend together. These schools incorporate Jewish sources into their curriculum and lifestyle in an encompassing fashion.

Parents have the right to choose the stream with which they wish their children to be associated, in accordance with their outlook.

Additional Educational Systems

During the past decades, several unique educational methods have become popular in Israel, including Democratic Education, the Montessori system, the Waldorf Method, Tali schools (Reinforced Jewish Studies) and others. Most of the kindergartens and schools that offer these methods are private.

Compulsory Education operates on five levels:

Pre-kindergarten -	From age 3
Kindergarten -	For ages 5-6
Elementary School -	Grades 1-6 for ages 6-12
Middle School -	Grades 7-9 for ages 12-15
High School -	Grades 10-12 for ages 15-18

Pre-School Education

Pre-school for babies and toddlers includes:

Day care centers operated by women's organizations, in community centers, and frameworks under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Social Services - up to age 3.

Nursery School: operated by women's organizations, local authorities, community centers, and private frameworks- ages 3-5. Some nursery schools also function as kindergarten classes for children ages 3-4.

Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-kindergarten (*gan trom chova* or *gan kedam chova*) is for children ages 3-5. Many of the activities of prekindergartens help prepare children for compulsory kindergarten. Pre-Kindergartens are usually operated by local authorities.

Registration for Municipal Kindergarten and School

Parents must register their children for kindergarten, primary school, and junior high school through the local authority according to their place of residence. Students register directly for high school at the schools.

Note: It is important to register children for school during the designated registration period, and at the correct location; otherwise the local municipal authority determines the child's educational framework in the parents' stead.

Information about registration regulations is available on the Ministry of Education website, www.education.gov.il. The English-speaking immigrant organizations may also be able to offer guidance.

Required documents include:

- *te'udat zehut*/Population Registry addendum of both parents
- *te'udat oleh*
- children's birth certificates
- any previous report cards

The School Year

In State schools, the school year begins on the first of September, and ends at the end of June. In independent schools, the first and last days of school vary. Obtain details from the schools.

Holidays and Vacations: Schools close for all Jewish holidays, including the intermediate days of Passover and Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, and Yom HaAtzma'ut.

School Fees

As mandated by the "Free Education Law" there are no tuition fees, however parents are required to purchase textbooks and other school supplies. Parents must also cover certain expenses, some of which are obligatory, while other charges, such as school trips and the Culture Basket (a series of plays, concerts, or special activities) are the prerogative of the schools. Other mandatory payments include accident insurance, and dental insurance in communities in which these services are available.

You can find information about school fees in the press, and on the Ministry of Education website: www.education.gov.il, and from the school.

Immigrant students, single-parent families, and low-income families are often entitled to various discounts and reductions.



Assistance to Immigrant Students

In many cases, new-immigrant and returning-resident students are entitled to financial assistance (participation in educational expenses), in-school help, and concessions on matriculation exams.

Financial Assistance

Participation in Expenses (Absorption Basket/Education Fees for Immigrant Students)

Immigrant students can receive assistance for part of their educational expenses. The assistance is transferred to the schools through the local authorities.

School principals are responsible for notifying parents of receipt of assistance from the Ministry of Education and for ensuring the proper utilization of funds.

The assistance is based on the educational level, the length of time the student is in Israel, and the student's country of origin. For more details, consult with a guidance counselor (*yoetz/yoetzet chinuch*), principal, or other relevant source of information in the school. Parents can also contact the Ministry of Education. See Useful Addresses.

Teaching Hours for Immigrant Students

All immigrant students are entitled to learn Hebrew, and in order to do so receive teaching hours during the school day for this purpose. The number of hours varies according to educational level, country of origin, date of aliyah and according to the number of new-immigrant students in the school. A new-immigrant student can receive at least 6 hours per week to study Hebrew.

In primary school students are eligible for one year only, and in junior high school and high school eligibility is for two years.

For more details, consult with a guidance counselor (*yoetz/yoetzet chinuch*), principal, or other relevant source of information in the school, or contact the Ministry of Education. See Useful Addresses.

Educational Reinforcement for Veteran-Immigrant Students

Teaching Hours for Special Programs, Enrichment Studies, and Bridging Gaps in Curricular Material

The Ministry of Education allocates teaching hours for veteran immigrants to schools according to educational level, country of origin, date of aliyah and the number of veteran-immigrant students. Tutoring is for Hebrew-language skills and improvement, and for enrichment and bridging gaps in curricular material.

Concessions on Matriculation Exams

New-immigrant and returning-resident students can be eligible for certain concessions on Matriculation (*bagrut*) exams according to specific criteria including the date of aliyah/return, age, country of origin, and other factors, as publicized in the “*Hozer Mankal*” (Director’s Communiqué) which is posted on the Ministry of Education website.

For information, consult with a student advisor, new-immigrant counselor, school principal, or other relevant contact person in the school. If necessary, request that the school make inquiries with the Matriculation Division of the Ministry of Education.

Some of the concessions for which students could be eligible include:

- * Translated test-question booklets (under specific circumstances)
- * Additional time for written exams
- * Extra exam grade points
- * Use of dual-language dictionaries
- * Oral exams in certain subjects under specific conditions
- * Disregarding spelling mistakes

Note: in some cases utilizing the right to one type of concession may nullify the right to another.

For more information, visit the Ministry of Education website, Department of Immigrant Students: <http://cms.education.gov.il/EducationCMS/UNITS/Olim>.



National Insurance Institute Study Grant

The National Insurance Institute pays a Study Grant at the start of the academic year to single-parent families, and to families with four or more children that receive a general disability allowance, assured income, alimony payments, old-age allowance, or a survivor's allowance **and that meet National Insurance Institute criteria for the grant**. The grant is for each child between the ages of 6 and 18. Families receive the grant directly into their bank account in the same manner as child-subsidy payments.

This grant is for the purchase of schoolbooks and supplies. To file a claim for the grant, contact the nearest branch of the National Insurance Institute. For details, see the National Insurance website: www.btl.gov.il.

Assistance from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration

The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration operates unique projects in the field of education, enrichment, and integration in the community. The purpose of the projects is to assist new immigrants, immigrant children and returning residents to integrate into schools and society as a whole. For information about eligibility and conditions, contact a community absorption counselor at nearest branch or district office of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

The Ministry operates programs in the area of educational reinforcement such as:

The “Yael” Program – a nationwide program operated jointly with the Ministry of Education and intended for immigrant students in grades 1-6. The program operates after school hours and promotes scholastic achievement among immigrant students, with an emphasis on improving academic success and the ability to manage texts in the subjects of study. The program focuses on reading improvement, comprehension, and writing skills, as well completing gaps in the various subjects of study in primary school.

The “Peleh” Program – Immigrant students in junior high school and high school can participate in the “Peleh” program, a nationwide program for enhancing scholastic and social empowerment. The program takes place during after-school hours in the school or at community centers.



A Computer for Every Child – “A Computer for Every Child,” is operated in conjunction with the “Computer for Every Child Association” of the Prime Minister’s Bureau. Within the framework of the program, eligible children from grades 2 through 11 receive a computer package that includes a stationary computer, programming and operating services, and a computer-skills course.

In addition, the Ministry operates educational and leisure-time programs such as preparation for first grade, learning centers, activity groups, and more, in locations in which there is a large concentration of new immigrants and children of immigrants.

To clarify conditions of eligibility and to receive details about additional programs, consult a community absorption counselor at the nearest branch or district office of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

Informal Education

Community Centers

The majority of towns and communities in Israel have community centers, known as “*Matnasim*,” which offer a variety of social, cultural, and sports activities for children and adults. Most community centers also have a public library; many have a fitness room or swimming pool, as well as sports fields and other amenities. Community Centers in areas with large concentrations of new immigrants often have special activities, many with funding from the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration. While most community-center activities involve fees, eligible new immigrants may be able to receive various discounts according to community-center regulations. For details, consult with the nearest community center.

Sports

Young people interested in sports can join one of the various sport organizations and associations that offer activities and events. In some communities with large concentrations of immigrants there are often special programs for immigrant athletes, funded by the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.



Youth Movements

Youth movements are a natural framework for making social contacts and becoming acquainted with the outlook of Israeli youth. Activities include hikes, camping (especially during school vacations), community volunteering, social, educational, and cultural activities. Some of the youth movements maintain immigrant-absorption coordinators who help immigrant children integrate into the movement.

Information on the different youth movements is available from the Council of Youth Movements:

www.tni.org.il

1 Rehov HaYasmin

Ramat Efal

Tel: (03) 5354777 Fax: (03) 7369101

A partial list of youth movements:

- HaTzofim (Scouts)
- Bnei Akiva
- Hashomer Hatzair
- HaNoar HaOved VeHalomed
- Machanot Olim
- HaIhud HaChakla'i
- HaNoar HaOved HaLeumi-
- Maccabi Tzair
- Beitar
- Ezra
- HaNoar HaDati
- HaNoar HaTzioni
- Heichlei Oneg

The Society for the Protection of Nature

The Society for the Protection of Nature (*HaChevra LeHaganat HaTeva*) preserves and protects nature and scenery in Israel and, among its other



activities, operates educational tours and summer camps. The Society also offers special activities for new immigrants and integrates immigrants in all its activities. Visit the website for more information: www.teva.org.il.

Young Scientists

Some of the universities hold extracurricular science activities and summer camps for children and teenagers.

Science-Oriented Youth

“Science-Oriented Youth” is a framework of enrichment activities that take place in “Science-Oriented Youth” units in academic settings including universities, colleges, and research and development institutions. Activities are supported by the Authority for Science and Technology of the Ministry of Education.

Special Projects and Assistance from Various Organizations

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Association of Community Centers, and other federations and organizations, all operate special projects to help immigrant children integrate into the school system and into society at large. You can obtain information on activities from immigrant-absorption counselors at the district offices of the Ministry of Education, from community-absorption counselors at district offices of the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, from local authorities, and from immigrant organizations.

Assistance, Advice, and Guidance

Every school has a guidance counselor to whom a pupil or parent may turn in the event of problems with schoolwork or behavioral difficulties, or in cases of violence and other problems.

Psychological Services

The Ministry of Education Psychological Services (“Shefi”) offer guidance and counseling to students and their parents. Referrals are through the school.



Open Line for Student Inquiries

The Ministry of Education Open Line promotes students' rights within the educational system and functions as an ombudsman and a crisis support line.

The Open Line operates as a nation-wide service and a resource for new immigrants in English, Hebrew, Russian, Spanish, and Amharic. Students can call the Open Line with questions about students' rights, rights of immigrant students, prevention of violence, dropout prevention, special needs, matriculation exams, various frameworks, student-teacher relations, and in emergencies.

The Open Line operates Sundays-Thursday, 8:00-15:00. Callers can leave messages after hours.

Tel: 1-800-250025

Fax: (02) 5602390

Eran- Emotional First Aid

www.eran.org.il

info@eran.org.il

Helpline 1201

Ministry of Aliyah and Integration Telephone Information Center for New Immigrants

The Ministry of Aliyah and Integration offers immigrants a 24-hour Telephone Information Center. The Center operates every day except for Shabbat and holidays.

The Center responds to inquiries on topics related to immigrant rights and general information, including information on education.

Telephone: (03) 9733333/*2994

info@moia.gov.il

www.klita.gov.il



Other Available Publications

The following booklets are available from the Publications Department. To order, simply indicate the booklets you wish to receive and return the order form to the Publications Department, English Section, Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, Beit Rejwan, knisa B, 16 Rehov King George, Jerusalem 9422917. The publications will be mailed to you free of charge.

- Guide for the New Immigrant
- The Absorption Basket
- Employment
- Employment Centers for New Immigrants and Returning Residents-Addresses and Telephone Numbers
- Education
- First Steps
- Guarding Your Health in Israel
- A Guide to Services for the Disabled
- A Guide to Transportation in Israel
- A Guide to Ulpan Study
- Health Services in Israel
- Housing
- The Life Cycle in Israel
- Military Service
- Ministry of Aliyah and Integration Addresses and Telephone Numbers
- National Insurance Institute
- Regulated Professions-Where to Apply
- Retirees
- Computer and Hi-Tech Professionals
- Scientists and Researchers
- "Sela" Job-Search Workshops
- Registering for a Health Fund
- Information for Olim Newspaper
- Where to Turn

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Date _____



ENGLISH

תלמידים עולים

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