



משרד העלייה והקליטה
Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption

ENGLISH

תלמידים עולים

Information for Immigrant Students



Produced by

The Publications Department
Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption
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הופק על ידי

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הודפס על ידי המדפיס הממשלתי

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General Information

The “Compulsory Education Law” and the “Free Education Law”

The “Compulsory Education Law” (1949) requires all children to be in an educational framework (kindergarten or school) from ages 3-17. (from kindergarten through grade 12). According to a government decision, as of the 2013 academic year, the State provides free education to children from ages 3-4, who are in public kindergartens. Implementation is on a gradual basis. As of the 2014 academic year, the Law will apply to all children from the age of 3.

Free education is provided to children in official kindergartens, primary, and high schools. For details, contact the Ministry of Education Information Center: 1-800-250-025.

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.

- Integrated State Schools, in which observant and non-observant students attend together. These schools incorporate a Jewish-studies curriculum and lifestyle on a broad scale. Parents have the right to choose the stream into which they wish to place their children.

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 four levels:

Kindergarten: For ages 5-6; in some communities for ages 3-6 or 4-6.

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 in private homes - up to age 3.

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

Registration for Municipal Kindergarten and School

Parents must register their children for elementary and middle schools through the local authority according to their place of residence. Students register directly for high school at the schools.



Note: Be sure to register children for school during the designated registration period, and at the correct location, otherwise the local municipal authority will determine the child’s educational framework in the parent’s stead.

Information about registration regulations is available on the Ministry of Education website, www.education.gov.il. Parents can also consult with the English-speaking immigrant organizations for 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 between the middle and the end of June, depending on age and grade level. 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 stated above, as mandated by the “Free Education Law,” there are no tuition fees; however parents are required to purchase all textbooks and other school supplies. Parents are also required to pay other expenses, some of which are mandatory, while others, such as school trips and the Culture Basket (a series of plays, concerts, or special activities,) the schools are permitted to charge. Other mandatory payments include accident insurance and dental insurance in communities in which these services are available.

Information about school fees is often publicized in the press, and on the Ministry of Education website: www.education.gov.il.

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 educational expenses (the Absorption Basket for immigrant students)

Immigrant students are entitled to government participation in some educational expenses. Assistance is through the Ministry of Education, which transfers the assistance to the schools via the local authorities.

School principals are responsible for informing parents about receipt of assistance from the Ministry of Education, and for ensuring the appropriate use of the money.

The level of assistance depends on the educational level, the number of years the student has been in Israel, and the student's country of origin.

For more information, consult the Department of Absorption of Immigrant Students of the Ministry of Education, www.education.gov.il/olim, (02) 5603619/0, or a personal absorption counselor at the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption.

Additional Assistance

Families with more than one child attending the same school, single-parent families, and low-income families may receive additional financial reductions. Contact the school for more details.

Students from families from lower socio-economic levels or from certain disadvantaged neighborhoods may be eligible for grants from the Ministry of Education according to specific criteria.



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 income-support payments, **and meet National Insurance Institute criteria for the grant.** The grant is for each child between ages of 6 and 14. 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.

In-School Assistance for Learning Hebrew, and for Bridging Gaps in Curriculum Subjects

The Ministry of Education allocates teaching hours to schools that have new-immigrant students, according to the educational level, students' date of aliyah and the number of immigrant students per class, as well as the students' country of origin. The teaching hours are for learning Hebrew as a second language, for Hebrew improvement, and for reinforcing studies and bridging gaps in curricular material.

Returning-resident students are entitled to enrichment hours for improving their Hebrew skills and for bridging gaps in curricular material.

The Department of Absorption of Immigrant Students has issued guidelines for the hours allocated for immigrant students and returning residents. For additional information, contact the school.

Note:

- All tutoring is in group sessions. The larger the number of immigrant students in the school, the greater the number of hours the school is able to allocate.
- Tutoring hours for immigrant students are allocated to the school automatically.
- Tutoring hours for returning residents are allocated according to the request of the school.



Concessions on Matriculation Exams

New-immigrant and returning-resident students can be eligible for certain concessions on Matriculation (*bagrut*) exams according to specific criteria according to 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, immigrant coordinator, 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 students could be eligible for 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: Types of concessions, exercise of eligibility, and period of eligibility for concessions depend on a variety of factors such as date of aliyah and country of origin, and are determined on a case-to-case basis. Note also that in some cases using the right to one type of concession may nullify the right to another.

The above-listed concessions may change from time to time. Check with the school or the Ministry of Education for updated information.



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 Immigrant Absorption, such as the “Pela” program, which helps to reinforce studies for students in junior-high and high-school.

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 Immigrant Absorption.

Youth Movements

Youth movements are a natural framework for making social contacts and becoming acquainted with the outlook of Israeli youth. Some of the youth movements maintain immigrant-absorption coordinators who help immigrant children to 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
- Halhud HaChakla'i
- HaNoar HaOved HaLeumi
- Maccabi Tzair
- Beitar
- Ezra
- HaNoar HaDati
- HaNoar HaTzioni
- Heichlei Oneg

The Society for the Protection of Nature

www.teva.org.il

The Society for the Protection of Nature (*HaChevra LeHaganat HaTeva*) preserves and protects nature and scenery in Israel and, among its activities, operates educational tours and summer camps. The Society also offers special activities for new immigrants and integrates immigrants into their regular activities.

Young Scientists

The universities offer 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 Immigrant Absorption, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Association of Community Centers,



and other federations and organizations, all operate special projects to help immigrant children to integrate into the school system and into society at large. Information on activities is available from immigrant-absorption supervisors at the district offices of the Ministry of Education, from community-absorption coordinators at district offices of the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption, 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

Psychological services (“Shefi”) are operated through the Ministry of Education, and offer guidance and counseling to students and their parents.

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, 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: 1-800-222-033

(02) 5602538

Fax: (02) 5602390

kav_patuach@education.gov.il



Eran - Emotional First Aid

www.eran.org.il

info@eran.org.il

Helpline	1201
Internet chat- ICQ Number	12010
Soldiers	*2201

The Israeli Association for Immigrant Children

The Association operates a telephone information center for immigrant students and their parents. The Association assists immigrant children to integrate into the school framework. The center is staffed by volunteers that speak English, Russian, Amharic, and Spanish.

Tel: 1-800-358-203 ,052-2566998

Fax: (08) 9358203

info@iaic.org.il

Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption Telephone Information Center for New Immigrants

The Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption 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

info@moia.gov.il

www.klita.gov.il

Publications

The Publications Department of the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption offers a variety of publications in various languages and on various topics related to the absorption process. Obtain publications at any local branch of the Ministry of Aliyah and Immigrant Absorption, or order from fax number: (02) 6241585, or wlaura@moia.gov.il. Please note your exact mailing address.



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 Immigrant Absorption, 15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem 9458115. The publications will be mailed to you free of charge.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guide for the New Immigrant | <input type="checkbox"/> National Insurance Institute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Absorption Basket | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountants |
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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shiluv Magazine |
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מדינת ישראל
משרד העלייה והקליטה

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