

אנגלית

תלמידים עולים



המשרד
לקליטת
העלייה



מדינת ישראל

הופק על ידי
אגף מידע ופרסום
המשרד לקליטת העלייה
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המשרד לקליטת העלייה
Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

ENGLISH

תלמידים עולים

Information for Immigrant Students
4th Edition

Information for Immigrant Students – 4th Edition

We would like to thank the Department of Immigrant Absorption of the Ministry of Education for their assistance and feedback on this publication.

Produced by the Publications Department

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

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Jerusalem 2008

Catalogue number – 0115608040

INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

The Compulsory Education Law

The Compulsory Education Law (1979) requires all children aged 5 (kindergarten) through 18 to attend school. Studies are tuition free through the end of high school.

The Education System

The school system is divided into State and Independent educational tracks.

Recognized State Education:

- State Education (*Mamlachti*) – In the State educational system, the majority of hours is devoted to the study of compulsory subjects, and the curriculum is determined by the Ministry of Education.
- State Religious Education (*Mamlachti Dati*) – In the State Religious system, the majority of hours is devoted to the study of compulsory subjects, including religious studies, as determined by the Ministry of Education. Elective hours are devoted to intensive religious studies, computers, and other subjects. In some schools, supplementary hours are financed by the parents.

Non-recognized Independent Education:

Some independent schools are recognized by the Ministry of Education, while others are not.

- Independent Religious Schools (*Chinuch Atzma'i*) – In Independent Religious schools, the majority of hours is devoted to religious studies, and the Ministry of Education is not responsible for the curriculum.
- Independent schools – In independent schools, the staff and parents are instrumental in determining the curriculum. Most of the high schools are independent and recognized by the Ministry of Education.

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, and private frameworks – ages 3-5.

Registration for School

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

Required documents include: *te'udat zehut*/Population Registry addendum of both parents, *te'udat oleh*, children's birth certificates, and any of their previous report cards.

The School Year

In State schools the school year begins towards the end of August or the beginning of September, and ends between the middle and the end of June, depending on the age and grade level. In the independent schools, the first and last days of school vary. Details should be obtained from the schools.

Holidays and Vacations: Schools are closed for all Jewish holidays, including the intermediate days of Passover and Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, and on Yom Ha'atzmaut.

School Fees

As stated above, under the Compulsory 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), are optional. Other mandatory payments include accident insurance and dental insurance in communities in which these services are available.

Information about school fees can be found in newspapers and on the Ministry of Education Website: www.education.gov.il

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



ASSISTANCE TO IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

Immigrant students are entitled to financial assistance, tutoring, and concessions on exams.

Financial Assistance

Participation in educational expenses (the Absorption Basket for immigrant students)

Immigrant students are entitled to a reduction or to government participation in the cost of purchasing school books and study aids, school trips, and cultural activities which are ordinarily funded by the parents. This financial assistance is provided through the Ministry of Education, and is given through the school.

School principals are responsible for informing parents about receipt of assistance from the Ministry of Education, and for ensuring that the money is utilized in an appropriate fashion. If a school charges fees from a student before it has received funds from the Ministry of Education it is responsible for initiating the necessary refund to the parents.

Eligibility: pupils who made aliyah during the last three school years.
Ethiopian students- those who immigrated as of 1996.

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

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 in certain disadvantaged neighborhoods may be eligible for grants from the Ministry of Education according to specific criteria.

Grants for Single Parent Families

Single-parent families with children between 6 and 12 years of age are eligible for an educational grant from the National Insurance Institute. This grant is provided for the purchase of schoolbooks and supplies. The grant is paid once a year in



August. To receive the grant, contact the branch of the National Insurance Institute, nearest your place of residence. For details, see also the National Insurance Website: www.btl.gov.il.

Tutoring

Immigrant students are entitled to group tutoring sessions in the framework of the school, to help them catch up on material and bridge the gap between them and their classmates.

The middle schools determine how to allocate tutoring sessions for immigrant pupils from the hours allocated to the general student body. Tutoring is provided to individual students as needed, from among the hours allocated to the school.

High schools: Every immigrant student that immigrated following 1/9/04 is entitled to a number of tutoring hours per week of tutoring.

Additionally, immigrant students in grades 11 and 12 who are studying for at least 3 matriculation exams (*bagruyot*) are entitled to an additional hour a week. Ethiopian immigrants that immigrated following 1/9/91 are entitled to a larger number of tutoring hours.

Note: all tutoring is conducted in group sessions. The greater the number of immigrant students in the school, the greater the number of hours the school will be able to allocate. In a school with few immigrant students, the tutoring hours are reduced accordingly.

Concessions on Matriculation Exams (*Bagruyot*)

A 'new immigrant student' is defined as a student who begins studies in Israel following the age of 15 or in grade 10 (*kita yud*). Such students are eligible for special conditions on the matriculation exams for 10 years from the first of September following aliyah.

Concessions include the following:

- A. For mandatory subjects, including Bible, literature, history, citizenship, and mathematics, new immigrants can be tested using translated test booklets in five languages; English, Russian, Amharic, French, and Spanish. This also applies to elective subjects, including computer science, physics, chemistry, electronics, and computers.



- B. New immigrant students can be tested in their mother tongue in mandatory and elective subjects for a four-year period from the first of September following aliyah. Following this period new immigrant students may continue to use the same test booklets but must answer in Hebrew only.
- C. For matriculation exams in English new immigrants are given 10 extra points, with the exception of immigrants who come from English-speaking countries. It is also permissible to use an English/other language dictionary for the exam. Electronic dictionaries are prohibited.
- D. Primary foreign language: a new immigrant can choose their mother tongue as a primary foreign language and be tested in that language at the level of 3-5 study units. A new immigrant is permitted an exemption on being tested in English and to be eligible for a matriculation certificate if they fulfill all requirements for eligibility.
- E. It is permissible to use a Hebrew/foreign language dictionary or phrasebook during exams for all subjects, with the exception of proficiency exams in an immigrant's native language.
- I. New immigrants are entitled to an additional 15 minutes of testing time for each testing hour for each matriculation exam.
- J. New immigrants may use a translated Bible for matriculation exams in Bible study.
- K. New immigrants can have exam questions read aloud to them for subjects with small vocabularies.

Integration of Children in the School

Schools should have a staff member who is in charge of helping immigrant pupils settle in, advising the pupils and their parents, and serving as a liaison between for the pupil's parents and the school administration.



INFORMAL EDUCATION

Community Centers

The majority of towns and communities in Israel have community centers, known as “*Matnasim*,” that 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 hold special activities for them.

Sports

Young people interested in sports can join one of the various sports organizations and associations that offer sports activities and events.

Youth Movements

Youth movements are a natural framework for making social contacts and for 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) 5254777 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

Representatives of some of these youth movements often meet with students in the schools.

The Society for the Protection of Nature

(HaHevra LeHaganat Hateva)

The Society for the Protection of Nature preserves and protects the nature and scenery in Israel and, among its other activities, offers educational tours and summer camps. The Society also offers special activities for new immigrants and integrates immigrants in all its activities.

www.teva.org.il

Young Scientists

The universities hold extracurricular science activities and summer camps for children and teenagers.

Special Projects and Assistance from Various Organizations

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Association of Community Centers, and other federations and organizations, all operate special projects whose goal is to help immigrant children to integrate into the school system and the society at large. Information on these activities can be obtained from the immigrant absorption supervisors at the district offices of the Ministry of Education, from community immigrant absorption coordinators at district offices of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, from your local authority and from the 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

Parents may avail themselves of the school psychological services (Shefi) operated under the auspices of the Ministry of Education.

Open Line for Student Inquiries

The 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, emergency situations, various frameworks, student-teacher relations, and more.

The Open Line operates Sundays-Thursday, 8:00-16:00. Messages may be left after hours.

Tel: 1-800-222-033

(02) 5602538

Fax: (02) 5603750

kav_patuach@education.gov.il

A person in distress can also call Eran – emotional first aid – at 1201.



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 Russian, Amharic, Spanish, and English speaking volunteers.

www.iaic.web4u.co.il

Tel (08) 9358203

Fax: (08) 9358203

iaic@netvision.net.il

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption Telephone Information Center for New Immigrants

The Ministry of 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

E -mail: info@moia.gov.il

Website: www.moia.gov.il

Publications

The Publications Department of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption offers a variety of publications in various languages and on various topics related to the absorption process. The publications can be obtained at any local branch of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, or they can be ordered from Fax number: (02) 6241585. Please note your exact mailing address. You can also use the order form at the back.



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 Immigrant Absorption, 15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem 94581. The publications will be mailed to you free of charge.

- Guide for the New Immigrant
- The Absorption Basket
- Employment
- Education
- First Steps
- Guarding Your Health in Israel
- A Guide to Ulpan Study
- Health Services in Israel
- Housing
- The Life Cycle in Israel
- Military Service
- National Insurance Institute
- Accountants
- Artists, Writers, and Athletes
- Computer and Hi-Tech Professionals
- Engineers and Architects
- Lawyers
- Medical Professionals
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Scientists and Researchers
- Social Workers
- Teachers
- A Guide to Transportation in Israel
- Information for Olim Newspaper
- Shiluv Magazine
- Registering for a Health Fund

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Date _____



A moment of your time!

In order to improve the level and usefulness of the material presented in this booklet, we would appreciate it if you would answer the following questions:

1. Where did you get the brochure "Information for Immigrant Students?"
 - Airport
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2. To what extent did this booklet provide you with the information that you needed?
(1 is the lowest rating, 5 is the highest rating)
1 2 3 4 5 Comments:
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 - Clarity of the Text 1 2 3 4 5
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We would appreciate the following information for statistical purposes:

Profession _____ Gender M ___ F ___ Age _____

Country of Origin _____ Year of Aliyah _____

Place of Residence _____ Date _____

Please send the completed questionnaire to the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, Publications Department, English Section, 15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem, 94581, or by fax to (02) 6241585. You can also place this questionnaire in the public suggestions box at an office of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption nearest you.

Thank you for your cooperation. Best wishes for an easy and successful absorption!

We would like to thank the Department of Immigrant Absorption of the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport for their assistance and feedback on this publication.

