

עיצוב: סטודיו הראל

# Information for Immigrant Students |



המסדה  
מזכירות

הופק על ידי  
ג'י מירדע ופרסום  
המשרד לליטת תעלייה  
רחוב הלל 15 ירושלים 94581  
כל הזכויות שמורות ©  
ירושלים

Publications Department, English Section,  
Ministry of Immigrant Absorption  
15 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem 94581  
All Rights Reserved ©

www.moa.gov.il  
e-mail: info@moa.gov.il

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.

**Produced by the Publications Department**  
**Ministry of Immigrant Absorption**  
**Ida Ben Shetreet:** Director, Publications Department  
**Laura L.Woolf:** Chief Editor, English Language Publications  
**Eva Madmon:** Research

Jerusalem, 2003  
Catalogue number: 0115603010

## **INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS**

### **Compulsory Education Law and Free Education Law**

The Compulsory Education Law (1979) requires all children aged 5 (kindergarten) through 16 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.

State education:

- State schools (*Mamlachti*) – The majority of hours are devoted to compulsory subjects and the curriculum is determined by the Ministry of Education.
- State religious schools (*Mamlachti Dati*) – The majority of hours are devoted to the study of compulsory subjects including religious studies, as determined by the Ministry of Education. Elective hours are devoted to the study of Judaism, computers and other subjects.

Independent education:

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

- Independent religious schools (*Chinuch Atzma'i*) – The majority of hours are devoted to religious studies and the Ministry of Education is not responsible for the curriculum.
- Independent schools – The staff and parents are instrumental in determining the curriculum.

### **Compulsory education operates on four levels:**

Kindergarten – One year between 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 ages 15 - 18



### **Pre-school education**

- Babies and toddlers: Day care centers operated by women's organizations, in community centers and 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 register their children for elementary and middle schools in the local authority and according to their place of residence. Students are registered directly for high schools at the schools themselves. Required documents: *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 this year on August 31<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> in elementary schools, and on June 20<sup>th</sup> in middle schools and high schools. 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 Free Education Law there are no tuition fees, but 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 cultural basket (a series of plays, concerts, or special activity), are optional.

Information about school fees can be found in newspapers and on the Ministry of Education website [www.education.gov.il](http://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.

Eligibility: students who immigrated during the last three school years. Ethiopian students – those who immigrated as of 1991.

The level of assistance depends on the educational framework, how long the student has been in it, and the student's country of origin. In the first year of studies, students who immigrated between September 1, 2002 and August 31, 2003 will receive close to 50% of the educational expenses, with the amount will gradually decreasing over the next two years.

#### **Additional assistance**

Families with more than one child attending the same school, single parent families, and low income families receive additional financial reductions. Information on the reductions can be obtained from the school.

#### **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 school books and supplies. The grant is paid out once a year in August. To receive the grant, contact the branch of the National Insurance Institute in your place of residence.



## 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 elementary schools determine how to allocate tutoring sessions for immigrant students from the hours allocated to the general student body.

Middle School: students are entitled to group tutoring sessions according to the number of students and their dates of immigration.

High schools: Every immigrant student is entitled to one hour a 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 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 will be reduced, accordingly.

## Concessions on matriculation exams (*bagruyot*) and school exams

Students who arrived in Israel at age 12 or older are entitled to concessions in the matriculation exams. Information on these concessions can be obtained from the school guidance counselors.

Please note: The concessions in the matriculation exams are currently being changed. Updated information will be provided at a later date.

Concessions in school exams: The Ministry of Education recommends that the school administrations allow various concessions for immigrant students



during exams, such as additional time, help in understanding the questions, etc. The school determines the concessions in accordance with the student's situation.

## Integration of children in the school

The Ministry of Education recommends to schools that accept immigrant students to appoint a staff member who is in charge of helping the immigrant students settle in, advising the students and their parents and serving as a liaison between the student's parents and the school administration.



## INFORMAL EDUCATION

---

### Community centers

Most of the towns in Israel and most of the neighborhoods in the big cities have community centers "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, sports fields etc. Community centers in areas with large concentrations of new immigrants hold special activities for them.

### Sports

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

### Youth movements

Youth movements are a natural framework for making social contacts and for becoming acquainted with the atmosphere and outlook of Israeli youth. Some of the youth movements have immigrant absorption coordinators who help immigrant children to integrate into the movement.

#### **A partial list of youth movements and their immigrant coordinators:**

- HaTzofim (Scouts): Danny Ademso 03-6303660  
058-37047
- Bnei Akiva: Moshe Solomon 02-5693140  
053-664692
- Hashomer Hatzair: Yoav Girsh 03-5255666  
064-840613
- HaNoar HaOved VeHalomed: Na'ama Horev 03-5125130  
058-394486



- Machanot Olim: Yuval Albinetzer 03-5350159  
054-578863
- Halhud HaChakla'el: Tami Slotzky 03-5620621/2/3  
050-606647
- HaNoar HaDati HaOved: Tzion Sudri 03-6390248/50  
03-6390258
- HaNoar HaOved HaLeumi: Mary Wolloch 03-9307421  
051-282138
- Maccabi Tzair: Benny Ben Bassat 03-6773566  
050-583200
- Beitar: Lilach Hershcovitz-Presser 03-6210625  
058-964307
- Ezra: Asaf Reuveni 02-5371640
- HaNoar HaTzioni: Dudu Hason 03-6966930/1  
053-445881

Representatives of some of the youth movements come to the schools to meet with students.

Information on the various youth movements can be obtained from the Youth Movements Council.

### **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 activity, offers organized tours and summer camps. The Society also offers special activities for new immigrants and integrates immigrants in all its activities. The Society has recently opened courses for training immigrant guides.

### **Young Scientists**

The universities hold extracurricular science activities for children and youths as well as summer camps.



## Special projects, assistance from various organizations

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Association of Community Centers, 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 the district offices of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption in your area, at your local authority and at immigrant organizations.

### **Educational liaisons**

In communities with a high concentration of immigrants, educational liaisons who speak the immigrants' language are available to mediate between the immigrant families and the school. Information on the liaisons can be obtained at the schools.

## Assistance, advice and guidance

Every school has a guidance counselor to whom a student or parent may turn in the event of scholastic or behavioral problems, violence, etc.

### **The psychological services - SHEFI**

Parents may avail themselves of the psychological services operated under the auspices of the local authority.

### **Open line for student inquiries**

The Ministry of Education operates a nationwide open line in Hebrew, Russian and Amharic. The purpose of the open line is to provide information and advice to students and parents on personal and social issues which have not been resolved in the framework of the school, or in cases in which a student prefers not to involve the school.



The advisors and psychologists staffing the line for students provide advice on issues and problems connected with emergency situations or violence, and information on rights in placement committees, tutoring hours, and concessions on matriculation exams, etc..

Toll free number 1-800-222-003  
Direct line – 1204  
Tel: 02-5602538/9  
[www.education.gov.il/kav\\_patuach](http://www.education.gov.il/kav_patuach)

The line operates Sunday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. At other times, voice mail messages can be left.

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.

Telephone 08-9358203 or 052-566998

### **Ministry of Immigrant Absorption telephone information center for new immigrants**

The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption offers immigrants a 24 hour telephone information center in Russian, English and Hebrew.

The service is available in Amharic, Spanish and French on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Center responds to inquiries on topics related to immigrant rights and general information, provides support and essential information during terror attacks, referrals to professional organizations that provide assistance in fields such as employment, consumerism, religion, education, etc.



Telephone: 03-9733333  
Fax for the hard of hearing: 03-9732143  
Email: [info@moia.gov.il](mailto:info@moia.gov.il)  
Website: [www.moia.gov.il](http://www.moia.gov.il)

### **Publications**

The Division of Information and Publications 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 by fax at 02-6241585.

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

- Guide for the New Immigrant
- National Insurance Institute
- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Guarding Your Health in Israel
- Health Services in Israel
- The Life Cycle in Israel
- Guide to Higher Education
- Military Service
- Artists and Writers
- Accountants
- Computer and Hi-Tech Professionals
- A Guide to Ulpan Study
- Lawyers
- Medical Professionals
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Scientists and Researchers
- Social Workers
- Teachers
- Transportation Services in Israel
- Information for Olim Newspaper
- Protective kits
- Registration in a Health Fund
- Assistance to Victims of Enemy Actions
- Shiluv Magazine

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 "Guide for the New Immigrant?"

Airport       Ministry of Immigrant Absorption

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please rate the following areas from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest rating)

Clarity of the Text                      1      2      3      4      5

Sufficiency of Details                      1      2      3      4      5

Design of the Brochure                      1      2      3      4      5

Usefulness of the Brochure                      1      2      3      4      5

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) 6241 585. 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!