



State of Israel
Ministry of Education
Pedagogic Administration
Department of Immigrant Absorption



ברוכים הבאים!

welcome!

Dear Parents, Shalom and welcome!
We congratulate you on your decision to
move to Israel.

To assist in your absorption in Israel and your children's integration in school and kindergarten, we would like to give you some information about the education system in Israel, which may be different from the education system you are familiar with.



The education system in Israel according to student age:

- **Kindergartens** – for children aged 3 to 6. From age 5 it is compulsory to send children to kindergarten.
- **Elementary schools** – 6 years, Grades 1 to 6, for children aged 6 to 12 (in some schools students attend for 8 years, until the end of Grade 8).
- **Junior high school** – 3 years, Grades 7 to 9, for ages 12 to 15 (in some schools students attend for 6 years, from Grade 7 until the end of Grade 12).
- **Senior high school** – 3 years, Grade 10 to 12, for ages 15 to 18.

The education system in Israel according to type of educational institution:

- State
- State religious
- State Haredi
- Recognized but not official (including Haredi education among others)
- Haredi exempt institution
- Special cultural educational institution (a Haredi secondary educational institution – religious studies only)

Registration:

- **Parents must select the stream** (type of institution according to the list above) **in which they would like to register their children.**
- Registration for schools is done by the parents: contact **your local authority's education department.**



Learning Hebrew:

- The Department of Immigrant Student Absorption in the Ministry of Education allocates resources to absorb and integrate immigrant students.
- The Department allocates special hours and programs to the school for new immigrant students to study Hebrew and bridge gaps in studies.



Evaluation ,examinations and diplomas:

- In elementary school, grades are usually expressed in words (good, very good...).
- In secondary schools, grades are given in numbers (from 0 to 100).
- At the end of Grade 12, students who have successfully completed the government bagrut (matriculation) examinations receive a diploma. Exams for the bagrut diploma take place in Grades 11 and 12.
- Immigrant students are entitled to be examined in government bagrut exams with special facilitations.
- Questions regarding bagrut examinations are sent by the student's school to the Ministry of Education Examination Division. Link to find out about the rights of new immigrant students:
http://cms.education.gov.il/EducationCMS/Units/Olim/Odot/Hozrei_mankal/ChozerMancal.htm



Textbooks:

- Many schools conduct a **book lending** project – students receive all their books at the beginning of the year, new or second-hand in good condition, for a certain sum, and they have to return them at the end of the year. It is necessary to register in advance in order to participate in the project.
- Sometimes students study using a computer or tablet.



Schedule:

- School usually begins at 8:00 and ends between 12:45 and 16:00 – depending on the student's age and type of school.
- Kindergarten starts at 8:00 and ends at 14:00. In institutions with a long school day, the day ends at 16:00. Children can attend an afterschool club until 16:30 or 17:00: this is under the responsibility of the local authority and necessitates additional payment according to the authority.
- The school day includes recesses. During recess the children eat food that they bring from home (sandwich, fruit, drink, etc.). There is nowhere to heat or refrigerate the food.



Uniform:

- Many schools have a uniform – the children wear a t-shirt with the school symbol.
- For special events students usually wear a white shirt (memorial days and holidays).
- In some religious and Haredi schools, there are additional dress codes.

Parents' payments:

- In schools in Israel parents are required to pay a sum that is approved and supervised by the Ministry of Education for activities that are not budgeted by the state, such as personal accident insurance, outings and a culture package.
- New immigrants are entitled to an absorption package / education fee that is part of the parents' payments. The "absorption package" means that parents will pay less to the school. This payment ("absorption package") arrives directly to the school administration.

Useful addresses:

- Regional counselors for absorbing immigrant students – the list of counselors can be found on the website of the Department for Immigrant Student Absorption.
- In many communities there are intercultural mediators who speak English.
- For further information contact the Department's office:
- Telephone: **02-5603619 | 02-5603620** or email: **agafklitato@education.gov.il**.
- Further information can be found in the Department's website: **www.education.gov.il/olim**



We hope you will feel at home in Israel