

Students' Rights Education in School Curricula

I am here as a representative of the Israeli Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. I have been the Supervisor for the Implementation of the Students' Rights Law for the past four years, an official position delegated to me by the Ministry's Director General.

I have always wanted to do legal work and fight for the rights of people. As I became a teacher, I decided to combine both my profession and my passion for justice, and now I am the Supervisor for the Implementation of the Students' Rights Law, in the Ministry of Education in the State of Israel. We in the ministry of education, attach great moral and pedagogical importance to the implementation of the rights of all students' vis-à-vis teachers and parents. Our educational concept sees the implementation of these rights **in the classroom** and schools, as a way of life, which encourages a culture of human rights. We focus on 'thinking means' and 'working tools' for all concerned. Teachers, students, parents and **school authorities**.

We **believe in** equality between the genders, based on equal rights and **equal opportunities**, tolerance and mutual respect.

In 1991 the State of Israel ratified the [U.N.convention](#) concerning the rights of the child Israel, as many other nations in the world, is a multi cultural society, which demands different solutions to problems of integration, **Language barrier**, ethnic differences and national consensus building within the younger generation.

[Implementation of the Students' Right Law](#) through a process which involves all, namely, [parents](#), students, educators and the public at large, will establish proper **behavioral codes**, will increase awareness of our rights and especially the rights of others.

Our first educational goal is to educate a child to develop respect for the rights of man for basic freedom, for democratic values, for observance of the law and tolerance for others' cultures and views.

In light of the above, [the State of Israel passed a bill](#), which states the [rights of all children in Israel in 2000](#), and [published a students' HANDBOOK](#) which includes the basic RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES of students.

[The booklet was written in Hebrew, Arabic, Braille](#) (in both languages). **The main rights are:**

1. The right to be loved and protected.
2. The right for privacy.
3. The right to be heard.

משרד החינוך
המינהל הפדגוגי
הפיקוח ליישום חוק זכויות התלמיד

4. The right not to be humiliated.
5. The right of the handicapped child to have access to all facilities available to others.
6. The right of one to keep his given name and ethnic culture in a multi cultural society.
7. To make mistakes.

The Students' handbook is accompanied with a **teachers' handbook**. There is also a Director **General's monthly circular** of directives for teachers.

An Internet site provides everybody with the necessary information regarding their rights. It also serves **as a means** to ask for advice and information at the ministry.

In addition, there is an **OPEN TELEPHONE** line directly to the ministry and it is also possible to contact me directly.

Every year we add channels of self-expressions for students to use in order to absorb the fundamental principles of the students' rights. **We held a national illustrations** and paintings competition for children to demonstrate such concepts as: LOVE, ACCEPTANCE AND COOPERATION.

I would like to sum up my presentation because I know time is short. It is not all wine and roses. We have many difficulties in the implementation of this law. Our main problem concerns the teachers who are suspicious of the Students' Rights. Some suspect that when students are given rights, those of the teachers will be taken away. Some say that we should publish Teachers' Rights too.

I, personally believe, that it is the right of all teachers to promote the right of every child. This, for me, is the essence of the word education.

Thank you for your patience and tolerance.