

Ethiopian National Project

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל



JFNA I&O Subcommittee Presentation

January 2023



KEREN HAYESOD
UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL
קרן היסוד-המגבית המאוחדת לישראל



הסוכנות היהודית
לארץ ישראל
THE JEWISH AGENCY
FOR ISRAEL
Securing the Jewish Future for Generations

Representatives of Ethiopian
Jewish Community
Organizations



נציגי הארגונים של
קהילת יוצאי
אתיופיה

Ethiopian-Israeli Community





Ethiopian-Israelis Today

- 170,004 Ethiopian-Israelis
- 90,600 of them Ethiopian-born (54%)
- 130,000 under the age of 45
- 36,000 families
- 32,619 pupils (2.3%)
- 4,600 in higher education

November 2022 Census Bureau Data

Ethiopian-Israeli Community Challenges

- Large, poor families
- Disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Absorption difficulties that affect employment, education and welfare
- Single parent families
- Uneducated parents
- Lowest tracks; vocational schools
- Low aspirations result in self-fulfilled prophecies of underachievement
- Dropping out of college/university; Expectations to work for family while in college
- Negative environs
- Over policing
- Unlicensed money loans by youth or families
- Experience discrimination, prejudice or racism
- Domestic violence
- Difficulty communicating within the family
- Various neighborhood conflicts (foreign workers, members of minorities, etc.)



A smiling woman with long, dark braids is positioned on the left side of the frame. She is wearing a black and white patterned top, a black choker with a white pendant, and a gold necklace. The background is a vibrant, abstract painting with large, bold shapes in yellow, blue, and black. The text "About ENP" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

About ENP



ENP's Goal

To bring about the full and successful integration of Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society

ENP is Unique

ENP PARTNERS

ENP INVOLVES

ENP EVALUATES

ENP TARGETS

ENP STRENGTHENS





ENP Programs

SPACE Scholastic Assistance

SPACE Excellence

SPACE Elementary

“Bridges” Spoken English

Project Ti’ud: Documentation of Ethiopian Jewry by Youth

Youth Empowerment Program

Parents Workshops

Safe Together: Police and E-I Community Initiative

Medical and Dental Healthcare Scholars

Community Leadership & Empowerment



Elements of SPACE Programs

- Small groups of 4-9 children
- Targeted learning of matriculation subjects
- Schools as partners
- Individualized study program
- Supervise, oversee and adjust
- Nutritious lunchtime meal
- Personalized and committed connections
- Professional and experienced staff
- Connections with the parents
- 20% non-Ethiopian-Israelis



Bridges English

- Spoken English fluency and confidence
- Interactions with peers in North America
- Jewish Summer Camp for Outstanding Participants
- Higher tracking levels

[Click here to meet Avital...](#)

<https://youtu.be/PHoms6rI0DI>





Project Ti'ud

- Imparting the Story of the Ethiopian Aliya to Future Generations
- Teens record, publish and share their family stories
- Forge intergenerational understanding
- Appreciation of Ethiopian Jewish journey
- Source of Jewish and Israeli pride for Jews around the world

Documentation of Ethiopian Jewry and their Journey to the Land of Israel

Interviews and Stories Collected by Students
of ENP Project *Ti'ud*:



The Ethiopian National Project - ENP

Documentation of Ethiopian Jewry and their Journey to the Land of Israel

Interviews and Stories Collected by Students
of ENP Project *Ti'ud*



The Ethiopian National Project - ENP

תיעוד יהדות אתיופיה ודרכה לארץ ישראל

מקבץ ראיונות וסיפורים שנאספו ונכתבו על ידי תלמידי
תוכנית תיאוד' במסגרת הפרויקט הלאומי
לקהילת יוצאי אתיופיה בישראל בשנה"ל תשפ"ב

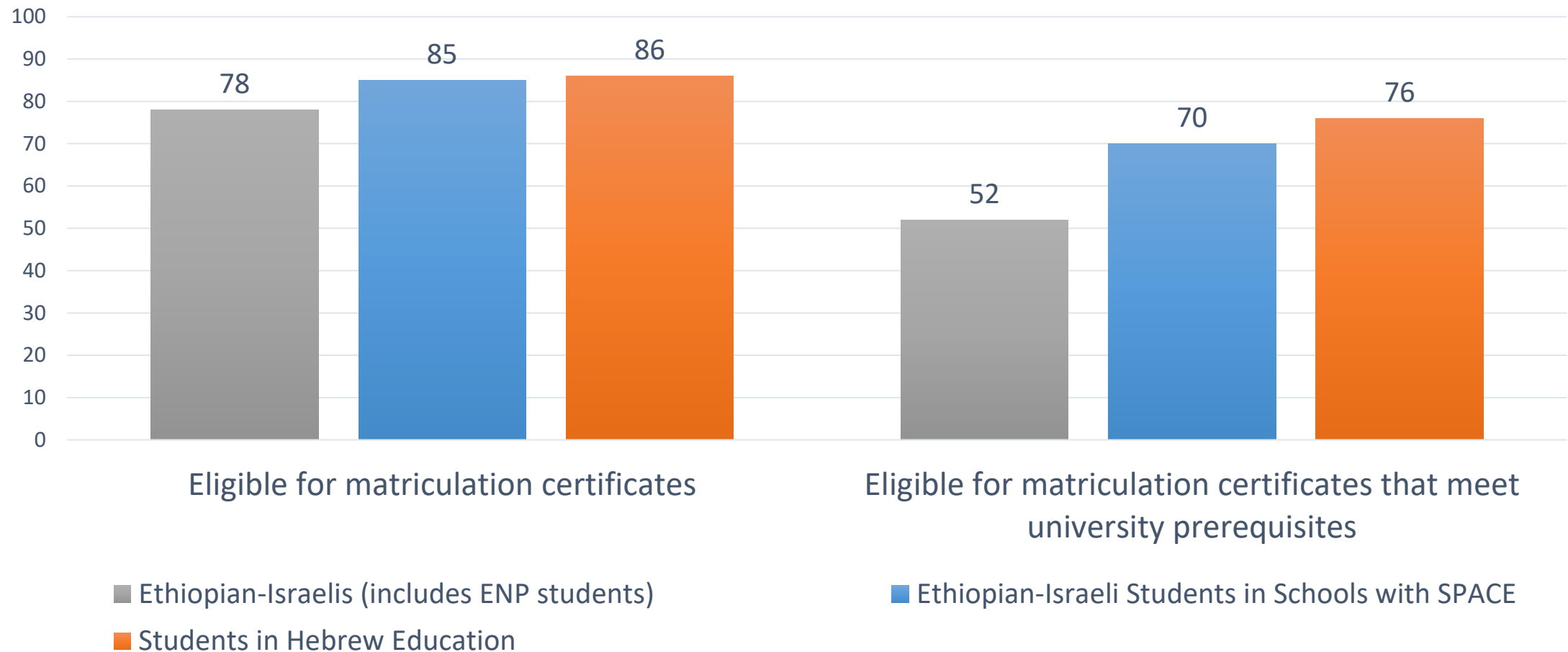


במסגרת תכנית הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל

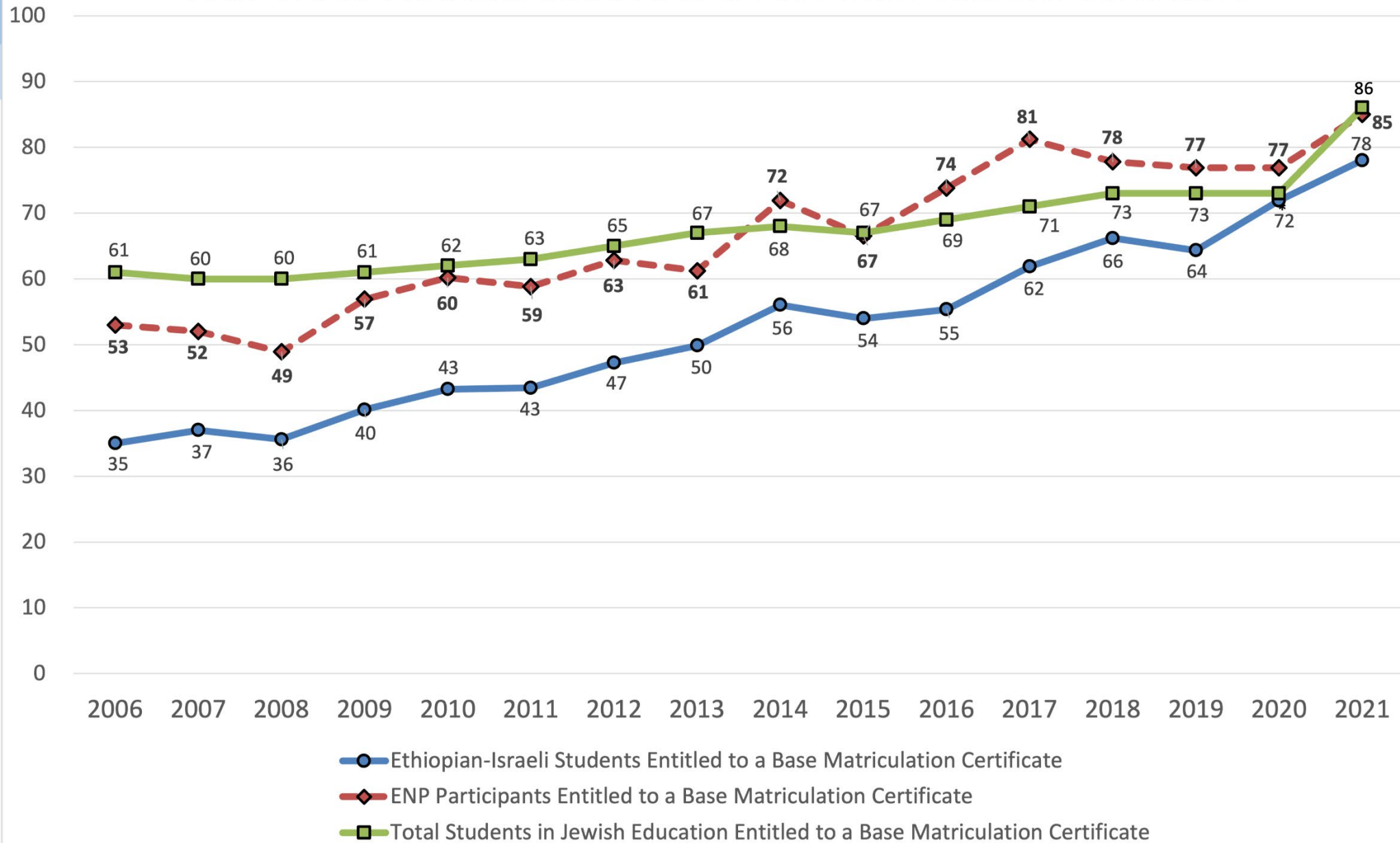
ENP Achievements



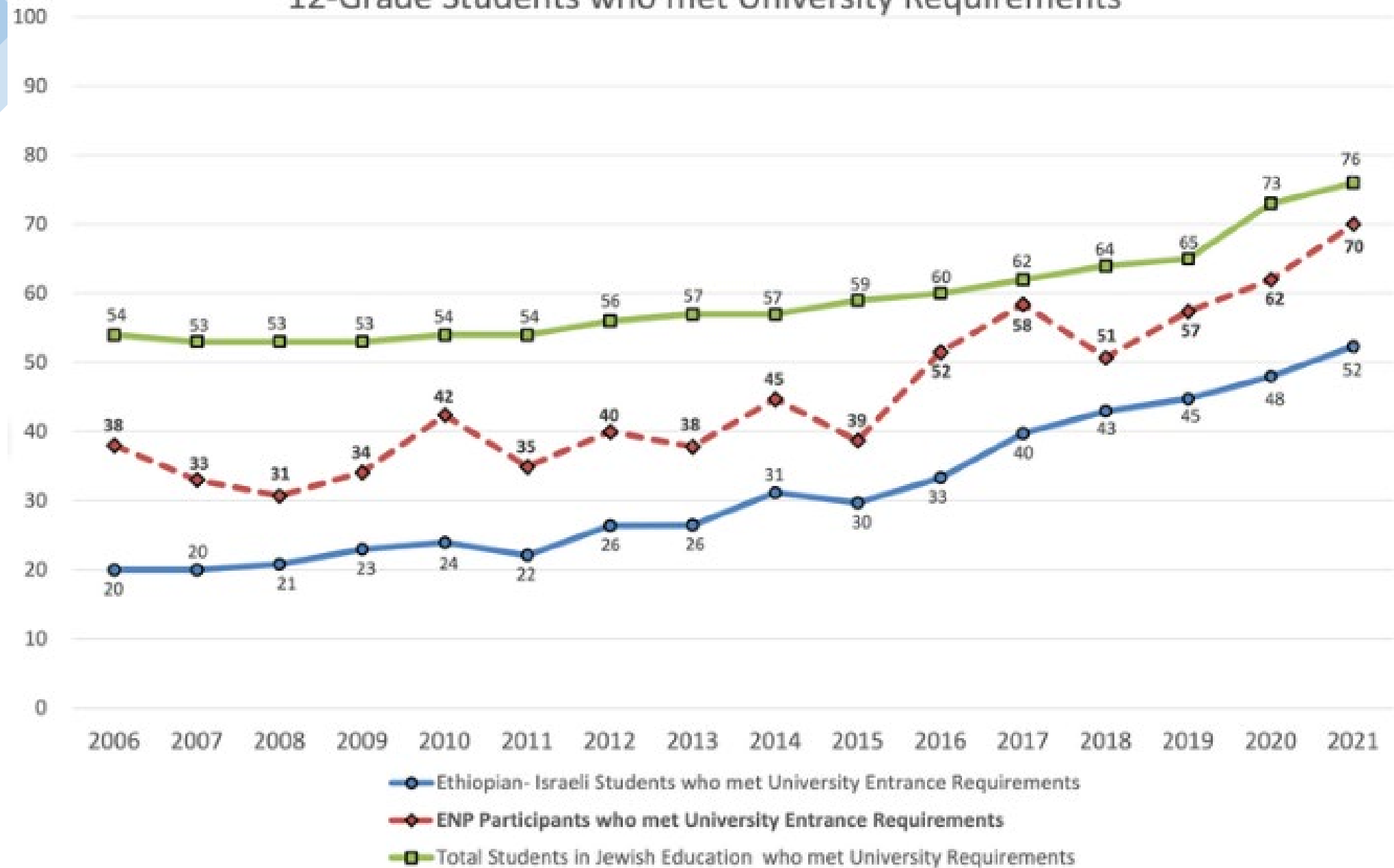
Matriculation Achievements in 2021



12th-Grade Students Entitled to a Base Matriculation Certificate

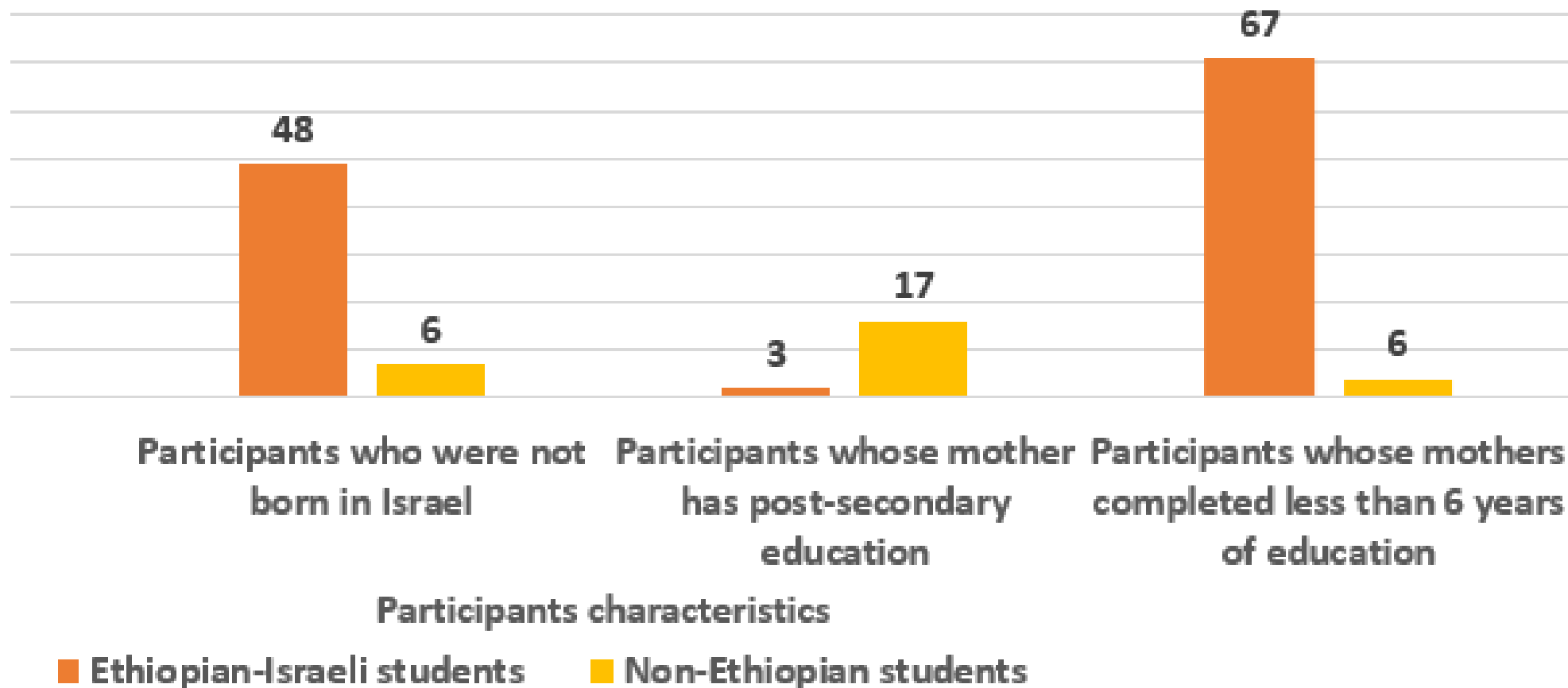


12-Grade Students who met University Requirements





Characteristics of 12th Grade SPACE Participants in 2019 – Ethiopian-Israeli Participants vs. Non-Ethiopian Participants



ENP Challenges



ENP in Light of the Coronavirus

ENP quickly adapted its activities to meet all health standards, including forming on-line study groups.

Pandemic heightened need for SPACE:

- Addresses learning lags formed during lockdown and on-line classes
- Provides emotional support, including one-on-one accompaniment
- Surrounds with positive social outlets and role models
- Offers direction and guidance
- Provision of meals

ENP Funding Needs

6,000 Children in 14 Cities are in Immediate Need of ENP programs

Every \$1,500 is one additional child in the program, then doubled by the Government of Israel





Opportunities



ENP Builds Cadres of Emissaries

- Ethiopian-Israelis in Youth Delegations and Summer Camps: participation in elite programs e.g. Diller, Jewish summer camps
- Ethiopian-Israeli Shinshinim- Year of voluntary service after high school graduation in global Jewish communities
- Bridges: conversations and connections between young Jewish Americans and young Ethiopian Israelis
- Ethiopian Heritage Program (Ti'ud): Create connections that foster pride and inspiration from the Ethiopian Jewish story and connection to Israel, including roots trips to Ethiopia
- Ethiopian-Israeli Schlichim for North American College Campuses
- Cast a wide net in the Israeli business community for top educated Ethiopian Israelis

ENP Inspires Hundreds of Interns and Volunteers





[Click here to
meet Sabrina...](#)

[https://you
tu.be/-
29hDO4b6
2Y](https://youtu.be/-29hDO4b62Y)

A woman with dark, curly hair is shown in a professional office environment. She is resting her chin on her hand, looking thoughtfully towards the right. In the background, a computer monitor and desk are visible, slightly out of focus. The overall tone is contemplative and forward-looking.

Looking Ahead: ENP Aspirations



ENP Equals...

- For Ethiopian-Israelis
 - Changing Negative Trends
 - Scholastic Success
 - Self-Confidence and High Aspirations
 - Greater Opportunities and Demonstrated Results
 - Intergenerational Connections
- For North Americans
 - Connection with tikkun olam
 - Pride in and connection with Jewish Identity
 - Pride in Israel
- For Israelis
 - Integrated work force
 - Greater social cohesion
 - Prevent formation of a permanent underclass
 - Another inspirational and successful Israeli Jewish story

Letter from Prime Minister's Office

“...ENP stands apart as an outstanding organization that effectively works with the Ethiopian-Israeli community...”

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, ENP quickly organized and was able to provide an effective response when many others struggled to do so.”

“ENP’s exceptionally high level of transparency, its intimate familiarity of detail of every child in its SPACE program and its ability to provide the Government of Israel and its partners with a swift and thorough response to every request for information is unmatched by any organization that deals with the Ethiopian-Israeli community—and even most other populations—in Israel.”



התכנית הממשלתית לשילוב יוצאי אתיופיה
Government Program for Integration of Citizens of Ethiopian Origins

3 September 2020
14 Elnl 5780

Dear Friends,

In my capacity as the Director of the Israel Government Program for Integration of Citizens of Ethiopian Origins, I have witnessed the exceptional impact of the Ethiopian National Project's School Performance and Community Empowerment (ENP SPACE) Program on the Ethiopian-Israeli population. The expansion of the ENP program over the past four years, coupled with additional intensive efforts on part of the Ministry of Education, enabled us to significantly decrease the gaps in the percent achieving full matriculation by half (from 15 to 8 percentage points) as well as to significantly reduce the gaps in the percentage achieving matriculation allowing higher education (for a gap of 26 percentage points to a gap of 19 percentage points). However, these also data indicate there is still a road ahead to achieve equality of opportunity for Ethiopian Israeli young people entering the army and employment.

In my four years as Director, ENP stands apart as an outstanding organization that effectively works with the Ethiopian-Israeli community in a grassroots fashion in the most professional way, while also working hand in hand with the government in implementing the new policies. ENP joined the New Way's efforts as an existing "Shared Initiative" created by Governmental decision in 2001 to forge a connection between Diaspora Jewry and the Israeli Government's efforts to support Ethiopian Jewry.

ENP's exceptionally high level of transparency, its intimate familiarity of detail of every child in its SPACE program and its ability to provide the Government of Israel and its partners with a swift and thorough response to every request for information is unmatched by any organization that deals with the Ethiopian-Israeli community—and even most other populations—in Israel.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ENP quickly organized and was able to provide an effective response when many others struggled to do so.

The remarkable achievements of those schoolchildren who participated in ENP SPACE and the continued and potential increase in influx of new *olm* from Ethiopia underscore ENP's continued importance and relevance and demand its continued support. Moreover, because of ENP's effective management and transparency we are also considering expanding the partnership into the area of employment, where there are many challenges.

Respectfully,

Talal Dolev

Director, Israel Government Program for Integration of Citizens of Ethiopian Origins

Cc: Dana Post Adler, ENP Chairman, North America
Itzick Sharir, ENP Chairman, Israel
Roni Dessie Akale, ENP Director-General

הגן הטכנולוגי, בניין 8, קומה 2, ירושלים 96958
Technology Park (8), 2nd Floor, Jerusalem, 96958

“The remarkable achievements of those schoolchildren who participated in ENP SPACE and the continued and potential increase in influx of new olim from Ethiopia underscore ENP’s continued importance and relevance and demand its continued support.”

Letter from the Umbrella Organization of Ethiopian-Israeli NGOs (*Netzigit*)

“...ENP recognizes the importance of empowering the community itself by utilizing community members’ skills and experience...”

“ENP... is best situated to coordinate strategic interventions that work in partnership with member organizations, community members, localities, the Government of Israel and global supporters...”

Representatives of Ethiopian
Jewish Community
Organizations



נציגי הארגונים של
קהילת יוצאי
אתיופיה

8 November 2021
4th of Kislev, 5782

Dear Friends, Partners and Funders:

We, the member organizations of the Representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Organizations in Israel (*HaNetzigit*), hereby affirm that we communally recognize the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) as our singular representative for interventions in the realms of education and empowerment, and in doing so urge donors and supporters to utilize ENP as its arm to fund work on behalf of the Ethiopian-Israeli community.

As ENP's stated purpose is to ensure the full and successful integration of Ethiopian-Israelis; as ENP recognizes the importance of empowering the community itself by utilizing community members' skills and experience to promote this end; and as ENP utilizes evaluation, data and measurement to verify objectives are met; we entrust ENP to utilize our member organizations and relevant implementers in the most strategic way to maximize impact and strategic funding in these realms.

Despite our many efforts over the last three decades, as single units our organizations have not sufficiently achieved our vision of success for our community. We have had many successes, but there still is a long road ahead with many challenges. The outbreak of the pandemic has dealt our community an especially crushing blow, and thus we recognize coordinated, targeted and strategic efforts are more critical than ever.

In our wisdom, we say: "Many spiderwebs together can capture even a lion." It is time that we come together as one. In doing so, we will be stronger and achieve our shared goals.

The Ethiopian National Project, in its capacity as a shared initiative and special partner with the Government of Israel, Diaspora Jewry and the Ethiopian-Israeli community, is best situated to coordinate strategic interventions that work in partnership with member organizations, community members, localities, the Government of Israel and global supporters, so that we, together, will have the fullest impact on all in need who must benefit from our shared work. As members of the *Netzigit*, we are a shareholder in ENP, and thus serve as decision-makers and priority setters, together with the Government of Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

With your support of ENP, through our coordinated interventions and with our direct input, we will make great strides in achieving our shared goals of success for the Ethiopian Jewish community. In doing so, we also will serve as an example of what can be achieved by working together in unity, towards a common goal, serving as an inspiration and model for all who seek to make change.

With deep respect,

Takale Mekonen

Chairman, Representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Community Organizations in Israel

Members of the Representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Organizations in Israel: Tene Briut, FIDEL Association, Amutat Avskat, Amutat Endenet, Hiyot, Maksam, Olim Beyachad, Yechalei, Amutat HaZvi, Amutah for Ethiopian Jews in Netivot, Prisoners of Zion, Tech-Career, Amuta for Ethiopian Jews in Bet Yam

נציגי הארגונים של קהילת יוצאי אתיופיה (ע"ר)
רח' ברגמן 2 א' רחובות טל': 08-9362925 פקס: 08-9100817
Email: wonde@netzigit.org; office@netzigit.org

“We... hereby affirm that we communally recognize ENP as our singular representative for interventions in the realms of education and empowerment, and in doing so urge donors and supporters to utilize ENP as its arm to fund work on behalf of the Ethiopian-Israeli community.”

JAFI Survey

“It is our hope... that this document will prove useful as background to any discussion within The Jewish Agency as to where the organization might want to invest its energies and resources in regard to the Ethiopian community in Israel, and that our findings might prove useful as well to others who would be so inclined.”

INTEGRATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF ISRAELIS OF ETHIOPIAN ORIGIN



RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE

A Survey of Associations Engaged with the Community

Dr. David Breakstone
Research assistant: Chen Agiv

Office of the Deputy Chair of the Executive, The Jewish Agency for Israel
October 2020

“...the question will remain as to where it would be best to invest ... energies and resources. It is our recommendation that any such investment be made in the Ethiopian National Project. While other NGO’s are unquestionably also having a positive impact on the community in a variety of areas, our survey suggests no reason to prefer their work over that of the ENP. To the contrary, given the ... constellation of factors, we believe there is every reason to support it...”

Educate and Empower

Engineers

Doctors

Healthcare Professionals

Social Workers

Hi-Tech Professionals

Entrepreneurs

Psychologists

Lawyers

Council Members

Knesset Members

Athletes



ENP: Inspiration for All

- Created by global Jewry to address the needs of Ethiopian-Israelis
- Includes Ethiopian-Israelis as leaders, planners, partners
- Comprehensive initiative with GOI match
- Addresses **critical needs**
- **Proven-successful** service
- Sound investment with **manifold** **payback**
- **Inspiration** and **connection**





A Shared Effort

“Fifty lemons are a burden to one person, but when carried by many, they are light, delicious, and have a beautiful fragrance.”

Amharic Proverb



Thank you from all of us at ENP!