



**ENP SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment)
Scholastic Assistance and Youth Outreach Center Programs
End of Year Report
October 2015**

The Ethiopian population has one of the highest rates of poverty of any social group in Israel. Their relative economic deprivation impacts on every aspect of the life of their children and on their prospects within the educational system. In recent years, Israeli families with means are investing more and more out of their own pockets in private tutoring and other supplementary assistance to their children. This advantage is not available to most Ethiopian-Israeli families, notwithstanding their demonstrated greater needs.

The Ethiopian National Project – Improving Children's Lives

The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) has a clear mission: to ensure the full integration of the Ethiopian-Jewish community into Israeli society.

Through this mission, ENP works to improve the socio-economic reality of the Ethiopian community in Israel through preventative measures, focusing on education. The ultimate goal is to reach a day where the vast majority of Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers obtain quality matriculation certificates, enabling them to pursue university education thereby helping them to break the cycle of poverty.

To make great strides in this effort, ENP operates two critical initiatives in 25 communities throughout Israel:

ENP's SPACE Scholastic Assistance Programs provide intensive, holistic after-school assistance- scholastic, emotional, social and nutritional- to improve school performance, assist in the acquisition of a matriculation certificate that will lead to quality army service and university acceptance while increasing self-confidence and vision of their future roles in Israeli society for Ethiopian-Israeli youth in 7th-12th grade. Certified teachers provide intensive after-school supplementary study assistance to small study groups of no more than eight students for 4 hours per week in core subject areas of Mathematics, English and Hebrew composition, and additional subjects as requested. SPACE is designed and implemented according to the individual needs of each child in the program.



ENP SPACE participants volunteer at a nursing home during Hanukkah. Volunteerism is a pillar of SPACE's holistic approach.



In 2014-15, SPACE operated in over 100 schools throughout Israel with approximately 4,000 children participating – including pilot programs in elementary schools in 4 locations throughout Israel. SPACE is working to improve Ethiopian-Israeli youth's grades, increase the percentage of students who graduate from high school, reduce dropout rates, and ease the transition from junior high to high school.

ENP Youth Outreach Centers provide a safe, positive haven for Ethiopian-Israeli youth while offering a range of enriching, extra-curricular activities for all community children. ENP's 14 Youth Outreach Centers are staffed by teams of professionals and trained volunteers, and are open after regular school hours until the late evening.

By investing in today's youth, ENP is strengthening tomorrow's parents, breadwinners and leaders, thereby ensuring that the Ethiopian-Israeli community and Israeli society as a whole will benefit.

Tsega's Story: Changing Perceptions

Tsega, a seventh grade Ethiopian-Israeli student, had poor grades and little motivation. His teachers were frustrated that he wasn't putting in any effort. In Tsega's eyes, everyone had given up on him, even his parents. But they had not- his teachers and parents knew they could turn to the Ethiopian National Project for help.

ENP's staff painstakingly worked with Tsega and convinced him to try ENP's after-school SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program at his school. At first, he only went sporadically, and didn't put in a lot of effort: "I figured the program was a waste of my time and it wouldn't make a difference anyway," he concluded. However, much to Tsega's surprise, not only did he understand the lessons, but when he did go, he even had fun. "I liked visiting the university and meeting Ethiopian-Israeli students," Tsega explains. "It made me realize, if they can do it, I can, too!"

As the year progressed, ENP staff helped Tsega learn that he had the ability to do so much more. Most importantly, he began to believe in himself. This changed everything: he started going to school more regularly and stopped being as much of a disruption at school and at home. And to Tsega's surprise, he even began to excel in school. In fact, his exams improved so much that he was pushed up to a higher level of courses.

Now, Tsega is back on track and knows he can achieve any of his dreams. "I'm so thankful that ENP believed in me. Just watch, I'll be famous one day, and make my parents proud!" he says with a twinkle in his eye.

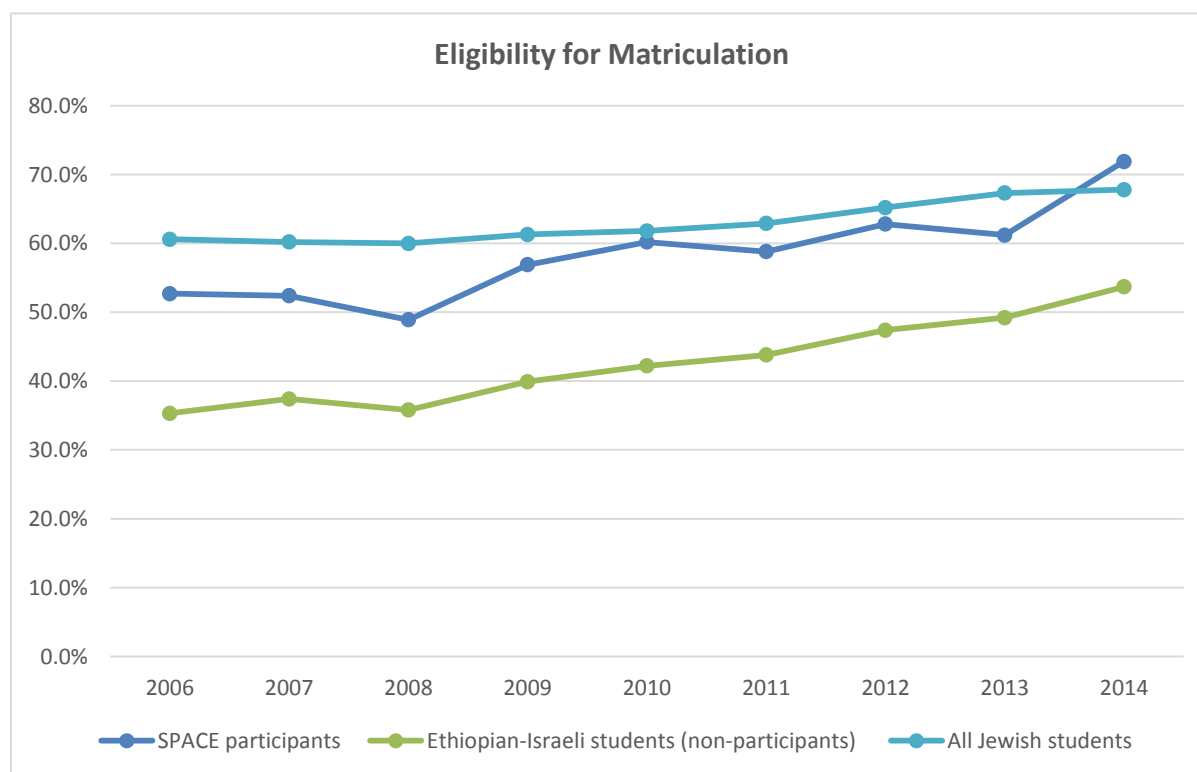


ENP's Ongoing Impact

SPACE Scholastic Assistance

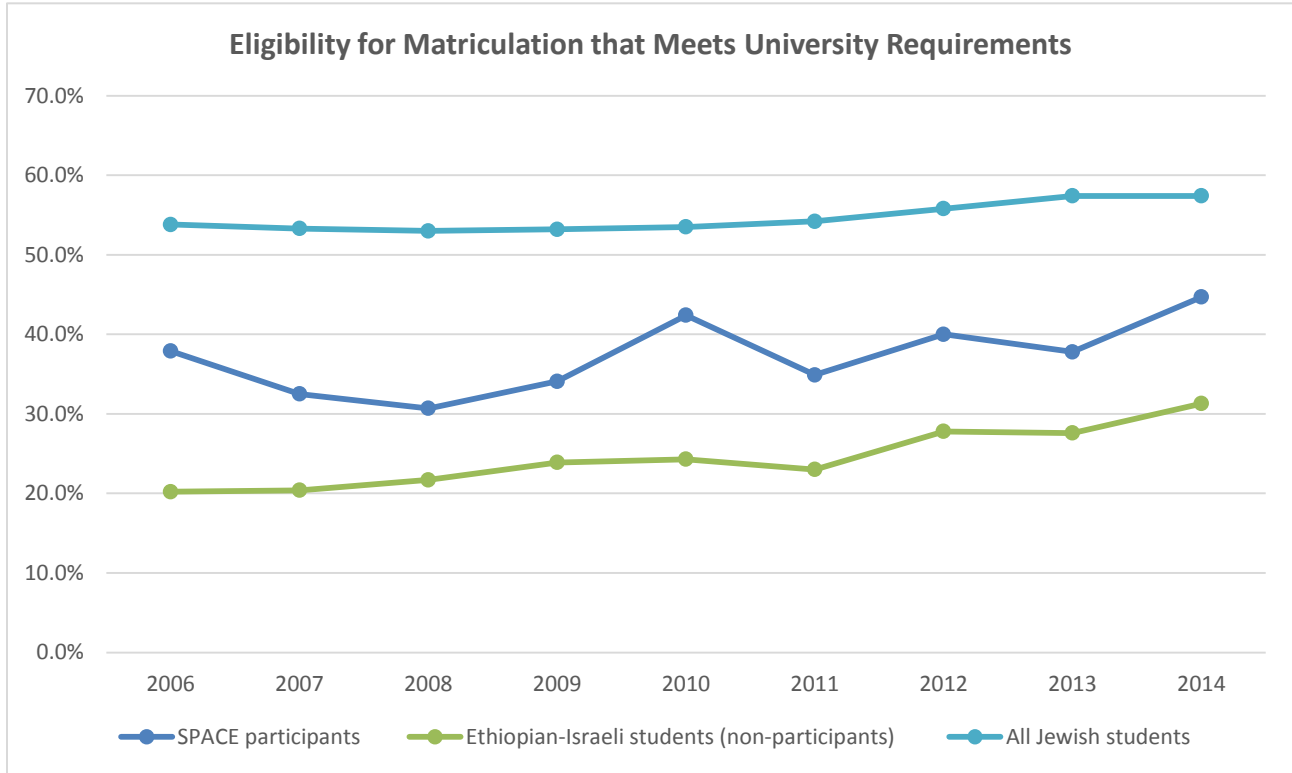
ENP prides itself on its adherence to the critical importance of external evaluations as a learning and growth tool. Following are excerpts from the findings of the September 2015 evaluation conducted by the Engelberg Center for Children and Youth, a division of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute:

In the last few years, the matriculation results of all Ethiopian-Israeli students have improved and the gaps with Israel's general Jewish student population have narrowed. The SPACE program has played a major role in this improvement. Specifically, the results of eligibility for matriculation from the 2013-14 school year have exceeded expectations, as the graph below shows the significant impact the program has had over the past nine years. **In 2013-14, SPACE participants surpassed the national average in eligibility for matriculation** and showed a substantial advantage over Ethiopian-Israeli students who do not participate in the program.



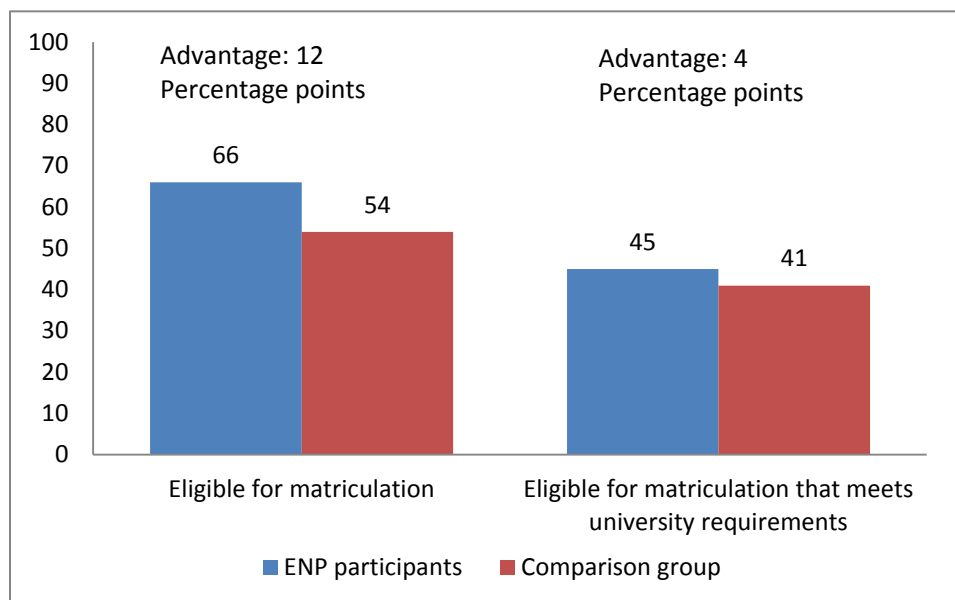


In addition, the gap between the general Jewish population and SPACE participants in eligibility for university matriculation has improved:



Thus, students in the program are not only closing gaps between themselves and non-Ethiopian-Israelis, but are also more likely to receive matriculation than their Ethiopian-Israeli peers who do not participate in the program.

More specifically the following graph represents the achievement of ENP participants in 2013-14 as being higher than those Ethiopian-Israeli non-participants, with similar characteristics, from similar schools.



It was also found that the program impacted particularly on students with the lowest scholastic achievements in 8th grade - who were found to have gone on to have a 14 percentage point advantage in eligibility for matriculation and a 6 percentage point advantage in eligibility for matriculation that meets university requirements.

SPACE Youth Outreach Centers

ENP's Youth Outreach Centers provide a high standard, normative response to the needs of youth to fill their free time. In the most recent study in 2015 from the Myers Brookdale Institute in 2015 on the Centers, the findings included:

- **Collaboration:** Many of the Youth Outreach Centers work in collaboration with the SPACE Scholastic Assistance Program. As one of the regional supervisors mentioned, "*There is great collaboration between the Scholastic Assistance Program and the Youth Outreach Centers. After the students finish with the program at their school, they come to the Youth Outreach Center where there are classes and additional scholastic assistance opportunities. The staff from both programs work together to develop courses in order to ensure a full continuum of services for the youth.*"



This past year ENP opened a new Youth Outreach Center in Nesher



- **Reaching a larger section of the population:** The Youth Outreach Centers provide an open space for all Ethiopian-Israeli youth, many of whom are not involved in ENP's Scholastic Assistance Programs. By providing this home away from home, ENP is able to reach a larger percentage of the population in an impactful way.
- **Envisioning the Future:** An important part of ENP's programs is paving the way to a brighter future for Ethiopian-Israeli youth. As one of the community coordinators said, *"Often I see my role at the Center is to open their eyes to their options and to show them the ways in which they can choose their future (and higher education)."* During the first few years of ENP it was difficult for participants to envision a future for themselves. Now, almost a decade later, when asked where they see themselves, many participants give answers that include being a doctor, physicist and even a Supreme Court judge. The change in perceptions clearly shows the demonstrated changes that come from participating in ENP's programs.

Over the past ten years, ENP's programs have made a significant difference in the lives of Ethiopian-Israeli youth participants. Clearly, ENP's methodology works. ENP now looks to the next ten years and the expansion of our programs to reach an even larger section of the Ethiopian-Israeli population.

With Appreciation

By investing in today's youth, ENP is helping to secure the future of the next generation of Ethiopian-Israelis, working towards the full integration of the Ethiopian-Israeli community and breaking the cycle of poverty.

External support serves as a lifeline for programming for the Ethiopian-Israeli Jewish community, and helps them move towards a better future as productive citizens of Israel. ENP believes that every eligible child must have the opportunity to be part of SPACE Scholastic Assistance, Youth Outreach Center, and other critical programs.

With your support, ENP will create a generation of success stories who will become fully contributing members of Israeli society.