



# Ethiopian National Project

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל

## 2022-23 Snapshot





# Introduction

The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) works to ensure the full and successful integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society. ENP partners with the Ethiopian-Israeli community and with those who seek to make a difference.

# ABOUT ENP

## Our Organization

Envisaged in 2001, ENP was created by a Government of Israel decision as a shared initiative with global supporters and Ethiopian-Israelis to address the greatest barriers to the full and successful integration of Ethiopian Jewish immigrants (*“olim”*) and their children into Israeli society.

ENP works tirelessly to prevent the creation of a black underclass in Israel by launching targeted, evaluated initiatives that enable community members to grasp their full potential.

## Addressing Critical Needs

After an extensive review of the needs and programs available for the Ethiopian-Israeli community and a broad process of consultation, ENP decided to focus its efforts on youth ages 13 – 18 and the parents and leaders who impact their lives. In 2004, ENP launched a major effort to provide quality opportunities for Ethiopian-Israelis. ENP's programs include after-school holistic support and workshops designed to empower parents and community leadership.

Over the last three years government funding for education has been significantly reduced. As a result, ENP had to reduce the number of children who receive scholastic assistance by 50% and will greatly effect the number of Ethiopian-Israeli students who earn a full matriculation diploma.

## A Unique Endeavor

ENP organizational partners include the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), representatives of Ethiopian Jewish community organizations, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel (JDC-Israel) and Keren Hayesod-UIA. ENP works in true partnership with the Government of Israel and the Ethiopian-Israeli community, involving them at local and national levels at every stage of the creation, implementation and evaluation of ENP programs. During the 2022-23 academic year, ENP operated in 14 cities across Israel, serving 3,352 schoolchildren in its scholastic assistance programs and hundreds of parents and leaders.



## **SPACE**

Holistic intervention that provides scholastic, social, emotional and nutritional support to 7th-12th grade schoolchildren

## **BRIDGES**

Supplemental English immersion through experiential games, special activities and Diaspora connections

## **TI'UD**

Students deepen appreciation for Ethiopian Jewry and strengthen identity by documenting and sharing Jewish life in Ethiopia and aliyah to Israel

## **MEDICAL & DENTAL HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIPS**

ENP provides scholarships for Ethiopian-Israelis who pursue an academic degree in medicine or dental healthcare, who then serve as role models

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

ENP ensures parents are partners in their child's education and are thoroughly informed of the resources provided

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVISM**

ENP provides tools for Ethiopian-Israeli leaders to positively impact their communities

## **LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

Programs like "Safe Together" instruct students on the importance of leadership and challenge students to plan and implement a community project

# ENP SPACE

ENP School Performance and Community Empowerment (SPACE) program works to increase the number of Ethiopian-Israeli high school students who pass the matriculation exams, improve the level of achievement in these tests and reduce overt and covert dropout rates. SPACE provides supplementary after-school teaching hours in small groups of up to nine children per group executed by professional teachers. The objective is to strengthen students' academic achievements, including preparatory classes for matriculation exams on subjects critical to success.

SPACE addresses social needs and personal development, including self-confidence and leadership skills, while paying close attention to social difficulties that may impair a child's progress in school. Ethiopian-Israeli professionals act as advisors and role models who encourage students' aspirations, as they work with parents to promote awareness and commitment to their children's success.

SPACE also includes lunch, a critical component for many. Inspirational speakers, activities, and field trips, including to higher education institutions, expose students to an array of opportunities that promote future success. Intensive collaborative work with school administrations, local municipalities and ministries alters the path of negative trends toward positive, nationwide social impact and societal change.

In the academic year of 2022-23, SPACE was provided to 3,352 Ethiopian-Israeli and other in-need students in 15 cities across the country. The program participants worked hard during study marathons over their vacations and enjoyed extra-curricular activities and field trips to enrich their experience.





### Objectives of the Program:

- Improve overall scholastic performance of participants
- Placement of Ethiopian-Israeli students in higher tracking levels
- Prevent students from exiting prematurely from the school system
- Improve the social/personal/emotional domain by strengthening students' motivation to study and generating self-confidence in their abilities
- Providing emotional support- SPACE aims to increase intellectual curiosity and social skills necessary to succeed, while empowering the students through an array of activities that promote: conceptualizing the future, strengthening self-efficiency, strengthening community identity, and enrichment





# Bridges

## Empowerment through Spoken English

ENP Bridges provides rising ninth and tenth-grade children the opportunity to participate in an exciting English immersion and exchange program. Bridges serves as a platform for participant children to focus on and develop their English language skills and participate in intensive English study instruction. This year, 135 ninth and tenth graders took part in the Bridges program, 4 students went abroad to summer camps in North America, and 4 to English-speaking camps in Israel.

English is used as a tool to empower and motivate children and help them understand the unlimited potential available to them if they demonstrate drive and passion. Each participant is encouraged to challenge his or herself, as an individual and as part of a group. Each group is asked to do a group project in English, and each individual participant has the opportunity to forge connections with Diaspora peers. The students can submit projects as an entry for the Sudilovsky-Busel Family Initiative for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Prize which is given once a year.

The Bridges program consists of four key components:

1. Supplementary after-school English instruction utilizing creative and innovative methods that inspire students and increase motivation (2 weekly hours, year-long, plus holiday or summer marathons and field trips)
2. Diaspora-Israel connections between Diaspora and the Ethiopian-Israeli youth, with a specially-developed curriculum that enlightens both, utilizing Zoom or other media
3. Group Projects: Projects that forge leadership and community-building skills, empowerment, and self-confidence, while utilizing English language skills
4. Camp Emissaries: Jewish Summer Camp experiences for select Ethiopian-Israeli youth who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to and progress in the program



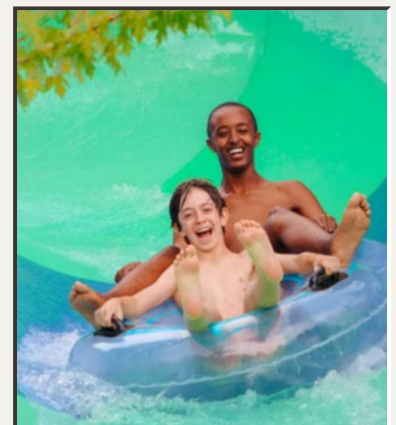
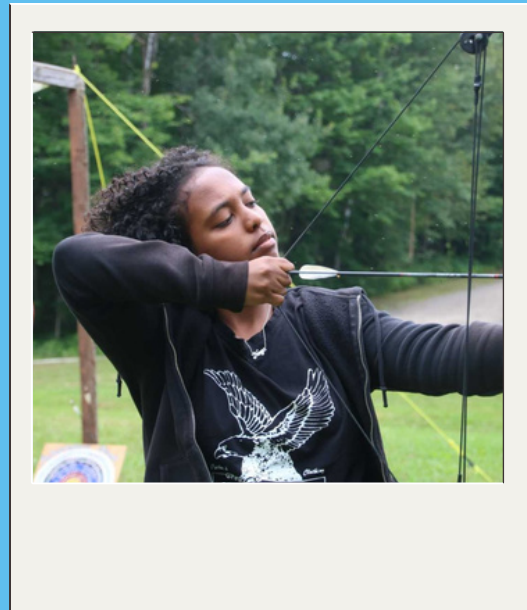


# ENP AT SUMMER CAMP!

ENP forges connections with overnight Jewish summer camps in North America. ENP SPACE participants travel as ambassadors to represent ENP, the Ethiopian-Israeli community and forge lasting connections with North American Jewry.

This year, ENP sent 17 outstanding SPACE participants to summer camp in Israel and in North America!

ENP wishes to extend its deepest gratitude to the Emma Kaufmann Camp, the Harry Bronfman Y Country Camp, Camp Kimama, Camp Kinneret Biluim, Surprise Lake and all those who played a crucial part in making campers' dreams come true.





# Project Ti'ud

**Imparting the Story of the Ethiopian Aliyah to Future Generations.**



Imparting the Story of the Ethiopian Aliyah to Future Generations has changed countless lives since it was launched in 2018. Today, children, parents, community leaders, principals, municipal officials, and the Ministry of Education consider this an indispensable program. The program has successfully preserved inspirational stories and is certain to reinforce Ethiopian-Jewish identities for generations to come.

Within the program, students from around Israel meet and interview elders within the Ethiopian-Israeli community who made the journey from Ethiopia to Israel, including students' family members.

Later, the students write the stories, and together, then they are compiled into a book enriched with the breathtaking stories that they have collected. In its third year, ENP continued Ti'ud in those cities where it was introduced in its pilot year and expanded to additional cities.

Project Ti'ud is generously supported by Rosalee and Richard Davison and the Ben and Zelda Cohen Foundation. In 2022-23, 207 students documented the lives of Jewish Ethiopian heroes.



# Medical & Dental Healthcare Scholarships

ENP provides medical and dental healthcare scholarships for Ethiopian-Israelis who pursue an academic degree in medicine or dental healthcare. Medicine is the most competitive of all degrees in Israel. Unlike in the United States, where students first pursue an undergraduate degree and then seek to enter medical school, in Israel, for the vast majority, medical school commences from day one of university, for seven years: six years of study and one year of residency, after which they are awarded their degree. Dental students receive their degrees after six years of study and residency.



The medical and dental university tracks are highly intense and demanding programs. ENP's medical and dental healthcare scholarships allow medical and dental students to focus on their studies and be less distracted by fiscal concerns that, in the past, were a cause to drop out. Within a matter of years, these students will become medical practitioners, and as they do, it will create change within Israeli society from the bottom up.

ENP Ethiopian-Israeli Healthcare Scholarships are made possible thanks to the generous support of the Jewish Federation of Lehigh Valley, the Sudilovsky Busel Family, the Gilboa Family, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Beth-Israel Federated Jewish Charities of Fayetteville, North Carolina and the Harry Yanoff and Jeanette Master Charitable Trust of Cumberland Community Foundation.





# Parental Involvement & Community Activism

ENP forges connections between parents, children, and schools so parents can be full partners in their children's education.



ENP Provides tools for Ethiopian-Israeli leaders to positively impact their communities





# Leadership Programs

In the 2022-2023 school year, ENP aimed to create a network of Ethiopian-Israeli parents and community leaders in cities where ENP operates its programs. Throughout the year ENP Director-General Roni Akale visited these cities to meet with community leaders, run regional meetings and ultimately help leaders represent the interests of the Ethiopian-Israeli community.

Additionally, ENP launched leadership programs for eighth grade students so they could take a leading role in student councils and help make a difference in their schools.

With the support of the German Federal Foreign Office's funds by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), Funding Programme zivik, ENP launched the "Safe Together" program which forges connections between the Ethiopian-Israeli community and the Israel Police.



# Public Relations

ENP works to improve the public image of the Ethiopian-Israeli community by sharing the story of Ethiopian Jewry and their achievements through numerous media platforms. You can receive updates from ENP on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, or you can sign up for ENP's monthly newsletter.





# International Relations & Missions

Each year ENP hosts an array of missions to ENP programs throughout Israel. Guests range from youth groups and campus groups from North America, groups and individuals from churches, synagogues, donors, and women's groups to major delegations from Federations and the Jewish Federations of North America and more. Each group and visit is uniquely sculpted to meet the needs and goals of each mission. ENP treasures the opportunity to share with mission participants the amazing story of Ethiopian Jewry and the successes of ENP's programs nationwide. In 2022-23, ENP was thrilled to host numerous in-person missions!



ENP's International Relations department works to share the story of ENP's impact and recruit the support required to provide holistic programs to the Ethiopian-Israeli community. This includes hosting missions, presenting to Federations abroad, representing ENP at conferences, and creating unique partnerships with local companies. ENP is proud and grateful to all supporters and partners who dedicate themselves to ensuring the continuation of ENP's programs described in this report.

Supporters include North American Jewish Federations and funds, foundations, and individual donors from Israel and overseas, many of whom have supported ENP since its inception. In addition, the Government of Israel helped to ensure that ENP's programs not only continue but grow to reach a larger percentage of the Ethiopian-Israeli community and have an impact nationwide.



# Volunteers & Interns

ENP is pleased to host many volunteers and interns every year from a wide variety of programs, including Israel Government Fellows and MASA programs, as well as independent volunteers. These dedicated people come from all over the world and speak many different languages, each bringing their own stories to share with others and their own gifts and talents. They give their time to help the Ethiopian-Israeli community by assisting in ENP's efforts to share its stories by volunteering for the organization. In the 2022-23 year, ENP hosted 14 volunteers; from North America and Ethiopia. ENP was overjoyed to have the opportunity to blossom thanks to these extraordinary volunteers and interns.





# Outbound ENP Visits

ENP's Director of International Relations, Grace Rodnitzki, and ENP Medical Scholar, Orli Wube, met with members of the community in Nashville, Detroit, and Delaware to share the story of Ethiopian Jewry and relay the importance of ENP's critical work. It was a privilege to be hosted by the Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, The Jewish Federation of Metro Detroit, The M&M Fisher Foundation, and The Jewish Federation of Delaware. ENP values the partnership and support of all those who enable ENP's impactful work to continue.



# Ethiopian National Project's Achievements

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ENP monitors the matriculation achievements of 12th-grade Ethiopian-Israeli students in schools participating in ENP SPACE. The following pages present a summary of some of these findings.

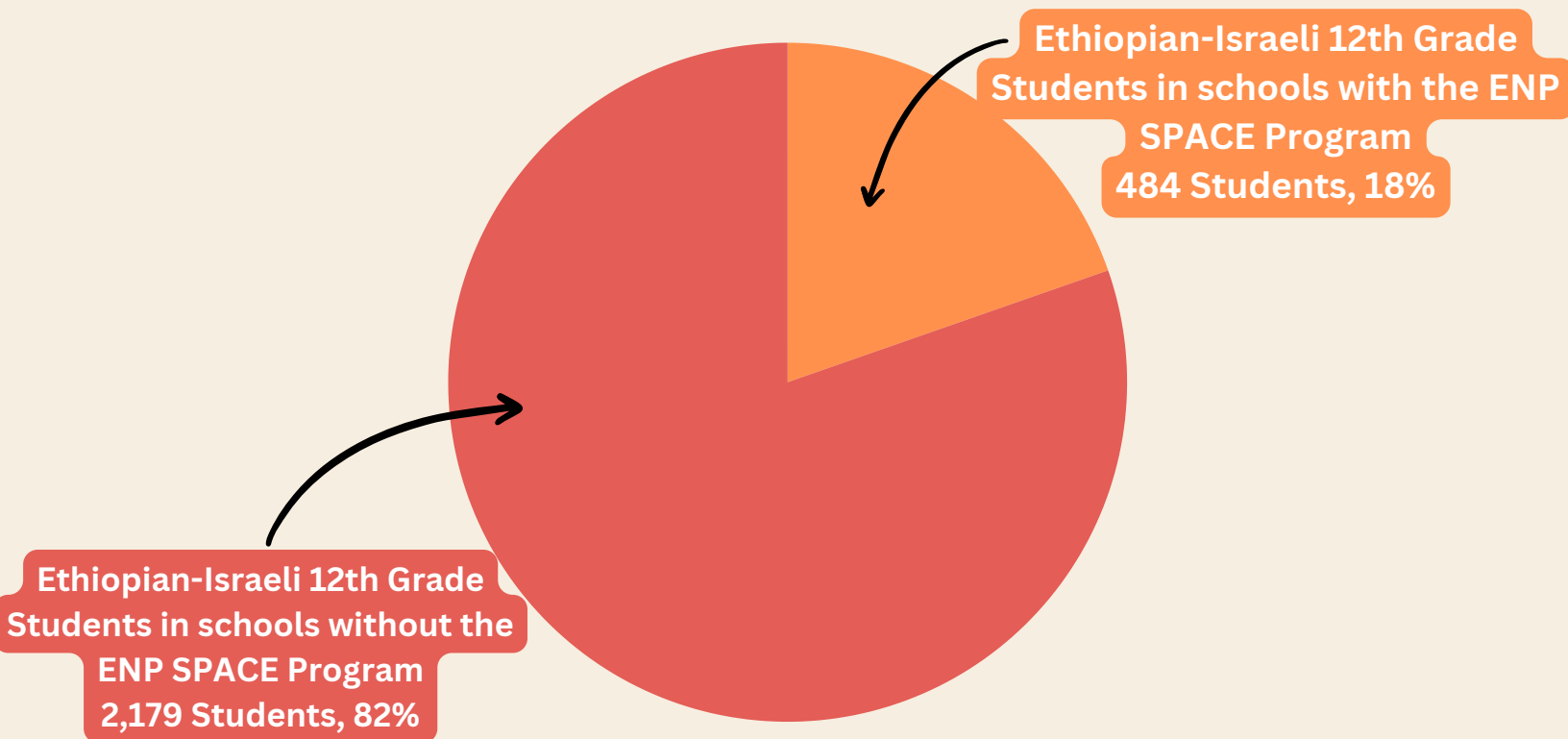
The following were the indicators used to examine student achievements:

1. Ethiopian-Israeli 12th-Grade Students in Israel in schools with the ENP SPACE Program ("ENP Participants")
2. Achievements of 12th-Grade Ethiopian-Israeli Students and ENP Participants
3. 2007-2021 Achievements of 12th-Grade Ethiopian-Israeli Students and Ethiopian National Project Participants Entitled to a Base Matriculation Certificate
4. 2007-2021 Achievements of 12th-Grade Ethiopian-Israeli Students and ENP Participants who met University Entrance Requirements



# In the 2021-22 school year, 18% of Ethiopian-Israeli 12th-Grade Students in Israel studied in schools with the ENP SPACE Program

Ethiopian-Israeli 12th Grade Students TOTAL: 2,663 Students



## Achievements of 12th-Grade Ethiopian-Israeli Students in Schools with the SPACE Program 2021-22

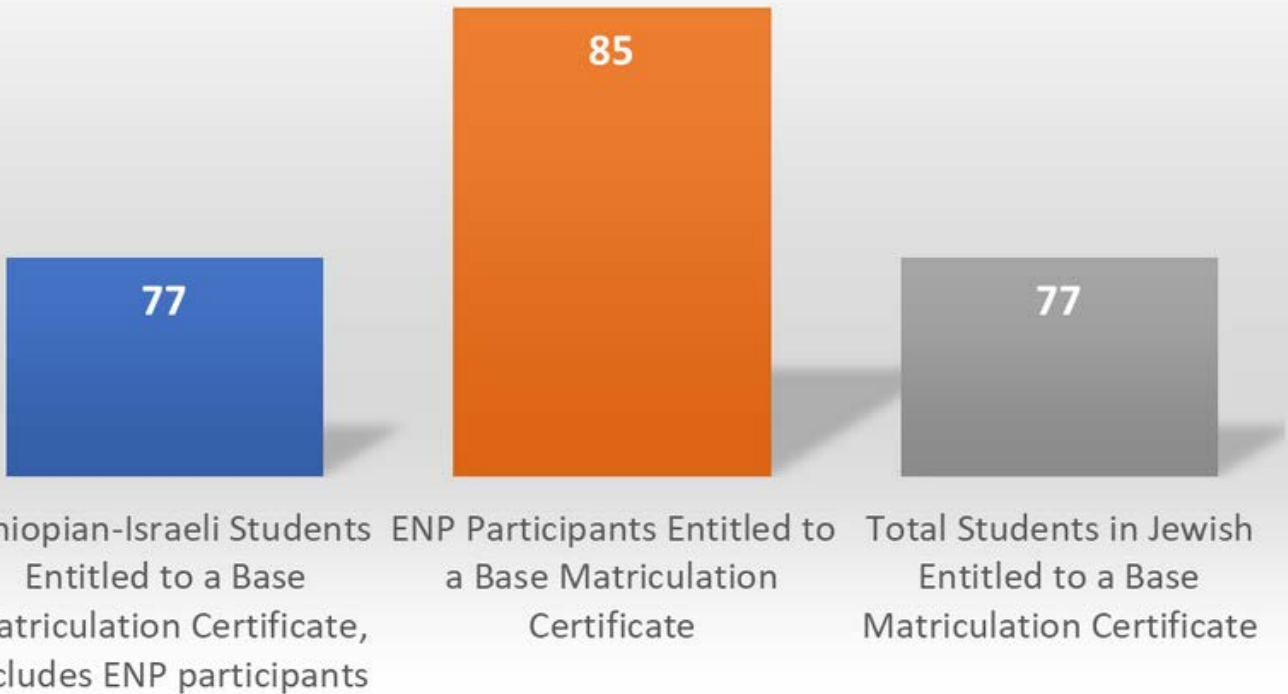
- Eligible for an "excellence" matriculation certificate
- Eligible for a matriculation certificate meeting university prerequisites
- Eligible for a basic matriculation certificate
- Eligible for a partial matriculation certificate
- Not near a matriculation certificate



**In 2022, 85% of ENP's Program Participants were eligible for a full matriculation**

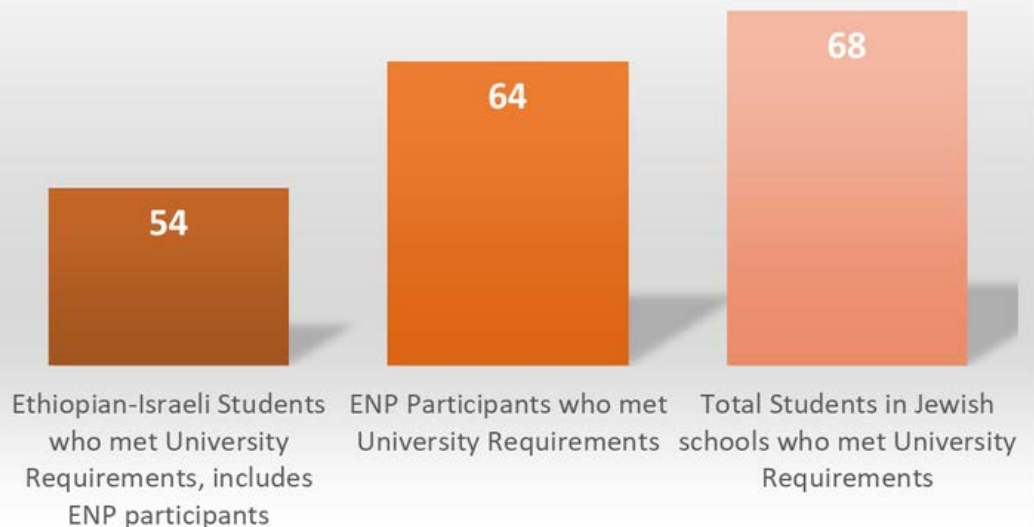
# 2022 Matriculation Achievements

2022 Achievements of 12th Grade Students  
and ENP Participants  
Entitled to a Base Certificate



**ENP Program participants achieved higher results than all Ethiopian-Israelis and surpassed the performance of the general Jewish population for base matriculation acquisition**

2022 Achievements of 12th Grade Students  
and ENP Participants  
Entitled to a University Level Certificate





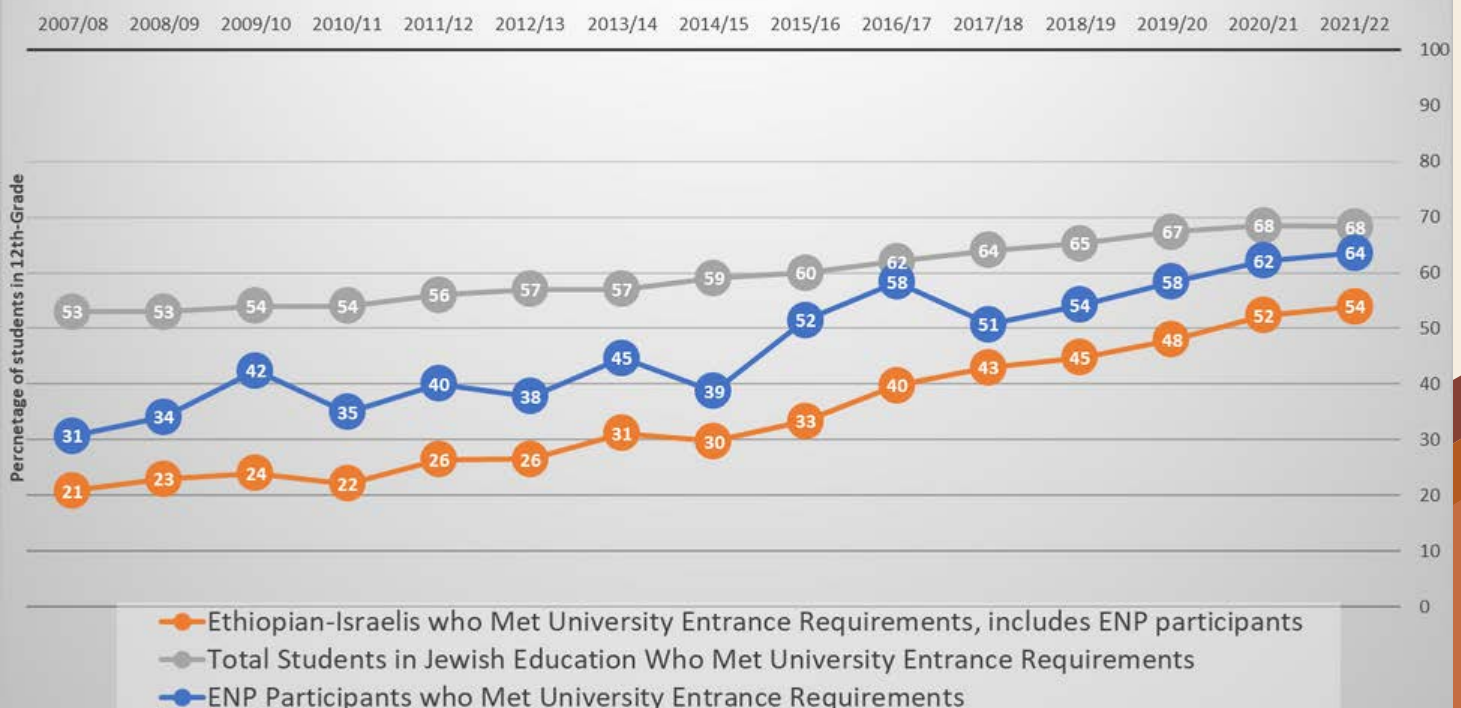
# ENP Matriculation Multiyear Achievements

**2007-2022 Achievements of 12th-Grade Ethiopian-Israeli Students and Ethiopian National Project Participants Entitled to a Base Matriculation Certificate**



**ENP is increasing its achievements with each passing year, has surpassed the general Jewish population's base matriculation and is fast approaching the general Jewish population's university prerequisite performance.**

**2007-2022 Achievements of 12th-Grade Ethiopian-Israeli Students and Ethiopian National Project Participants Entitled to a University Level Matriculation Certificate**

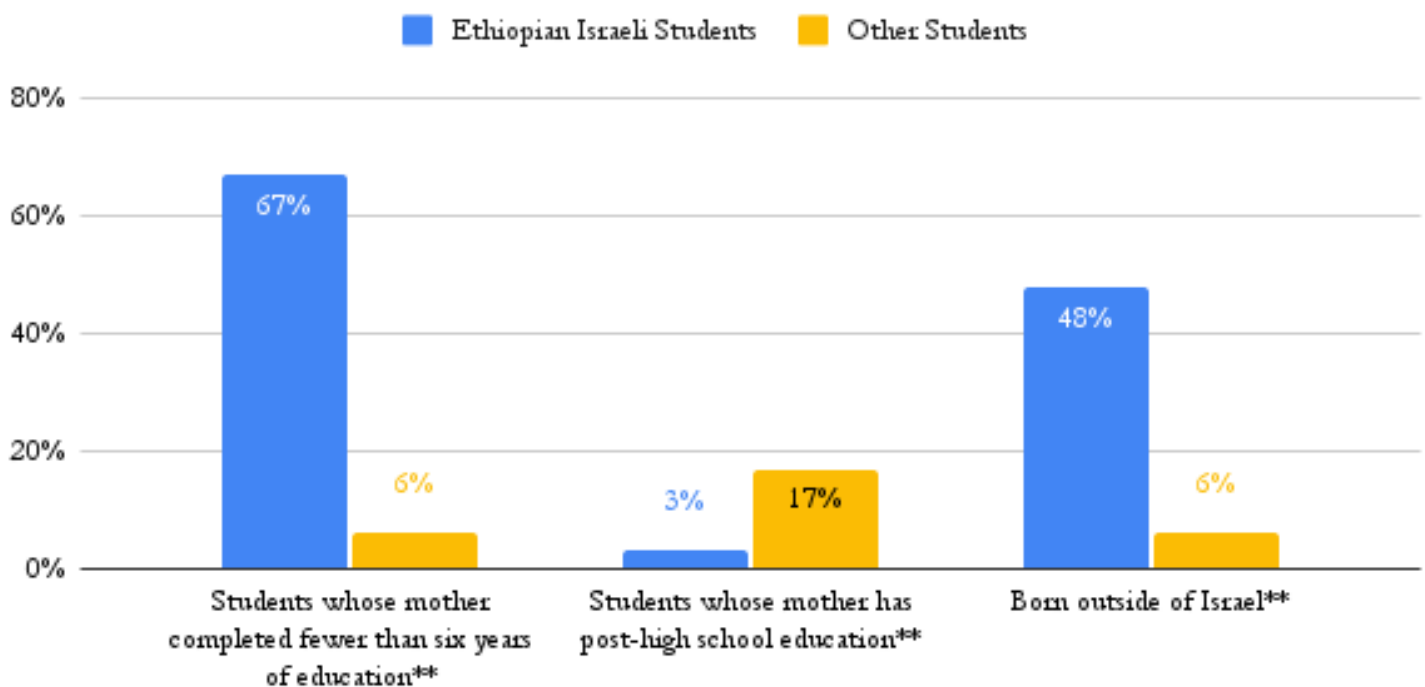


# Socio-economic Background Evaluation

According to the most recent data (2019), Ethiopian-Israeli students come from weaker socio-economic backgrounds than other students which can strongly impact their success rate. The majority of Ethiopian immigrants come from rural backgrounds and have not completed their formal education; this makes it even more challenging to assist their children academically.

SPACE is even more critical for these students; each one deserves the opportunity to succeed. SPACE creates a community and a space where all participants can benefit from resources that otherwise may not be available to them.

Ethiopian-Israeli program come from a weaker socio-economic background than other students in the program (N=655)



**Ethiopian-Israeli participants N=655, Other students N=215 |**

**\*\*p<0.01 | % of Israeli-born and mother's education were examined by the  $\chi^2$  test**

# Organizational Partners



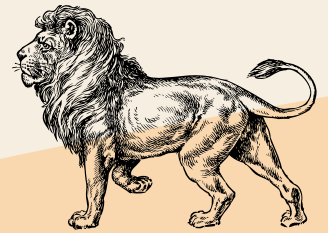
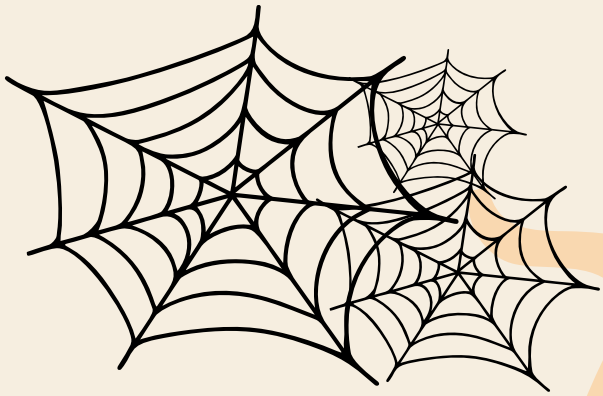
# ENP Board Members

Dr. Itzick Sharir  
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Dr. David Breakstone  
Avi Fleishon  
Tali Ben Hamo  
Ella Moses  
Alemu Avenet  
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Keren Hayesod-UIA  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Aliyah and Integration  
Ministry of Finance  
Representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Organizations in Israel  
Representatives of Ethiopian Jewish Organizations in Israel



**"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."  
- Amharic Proverb**



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