

MATANEL FOUNDATION
Activity Report

Program: Scholarships for Young Students from Ethiopian Backgrounds
Year of activity: September 2013 – August 2014
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Program Implementation:

The objective of this project is to identify and enable talented, Ethiopian-Israeli students to enroll and excel in top quality junior high schools and high schools throughout Israel. The project seeks to overcome a concerning trend by which talented Ethiopian students succeed in being admitted to prestigious junior high schools but drop out because of the preventatively high tuition costs.

The Steering Center maintains that successful graduation from a top-quality high school greatly enhances the likelihood that talented Ethiopian-Israeli students will be accepted to study prestigious academic degrees in leading universities, and this will ultimately bring about their full social and economic actualization.

The table below summarizes the number Matanel Scholarships distributed to eligible Ethiopian-Israeli students since the project began in 2011.

Year	Number of Scholarships
2011	19
2012	30
2013	52
2014	63

Each year, Matanel Scholarships were awarded to students in fifth through 12th grades, from families living in harsh social and economic conditions. These subsidies effectively reduce the financial strain on families and enable them to afford the preventatively high tuition costs of good quality Israeli junior high schools and high schools.

In 2014, Matanel Scholarships were awarded to 48 students from previous years and 15 new students. Four Matanel Scholarship recipients graduated from 12th grade. (One graduate, Masati Mulat, completed a double major in Technology and Bio Systems with distinction.)

Among the Matanel Scholarship winners from the 2014 school year:

- Two students are enrolled in the Computer Science major track at Atid Science High School in Lod. Avraham Tasaho holds a 93% average.
- Three students are enrolled in the prestigious Leyada University high school in Jerusalem – one of the top schools in Israel.
- Three students are attending the Arts High School in Ashkelon. Haim Yechezkias is a regular feature on the Education Channel in Israeli television.
- One student is enrolled in the Center for Gifted Students at Kinneret Academic College. She is a talented saxophonist and plays regularly on the Israel Education TV Channel.

Accomplishments:

1. The program met its goal by selecting 63 talented, Ethiopian-Israeli children and awarding each of them a Matanel Scholarship.
2. All 63 students successfully completed the school year without dropping-out, and either maintained good grades or improved their grades.
3. Participating junior high schools and high schools reduced the overall tuition costs for Matanel Scholarship winners. (The remaining tuition costs were covered by the parents.)

Evaluation:

The project is evaluated internally according to the following criteria:

- **Grades:** Scholastic performance of participating students is monitored throughout the year by the school and by Steering Center staff. Scholarship winners are required to maintain consistently high grades or improve their existing grade averages over the course of the year in order to be eligible for a scholarship the following year.
- **Participation:** Student participation and attendance remains consistently high. All participating students completed the school year and none dropped out.
- **Integration:** Participating students continue to be well integrated into the student body at the prestigious high schools they are attending.

Advancing Matanel Scholarships in 2015

- As agreed with Matanel Foundation representatives, the project is expected to continue until 2016.
- The Society for Advancement of Education continues to seek support that will enable to continuity of this important project in the future.