

**Evaluation Report  
Tzahali Academy  
Year 14  
5780 – 2019-20**

The Tzahali evaluation is conducted by the Tzahali Academy senior staff (Head of Tzahali and Administrative Director) along with the coordinators of the two branches of the Mechina. It is overseen by the Executive Director of the Yaacov Herzog Center.

Key components of the process are:

1. Staff develops personal relationships with each student, receive oral and written feedback from the participants and follow up with each of them.
2. Participants complete a questionnaire at the beginning of the year. At the midway point the staff spends two days with the participants for an in depth evaluation of the Program; learning what is going well and what needs improvement. This is done through both group discussions and a questionnaire. At the end of the year participants answer an online survey and have exit interviews.
3. The staff reviews the information and learns how and where to improve the program.

In addition, we measure success through:

- A. Program alumni testify to the transformative value of the program.
- B. Recognition of Tzahali alumni as outstanding soldiers by the IDF and that the alumni serve in all types of units
- C. The change in the discourse within the religious Zionist community regarding army service for religious women. For most, it is now an educational choice not a religious question
- D. Staying in touch with the alumni and developing programs with and for them.
- E. Alumni will also stay in touch with the Mechina, sharing their experience with the current students.

Important finding from this year's evaluation:

- 1) The year at Tzahali is a transformative year where over 80% of the participants report that they matured, gained a better understanding of their own Jewish identity, became more connected to Israel, and better prepared for meaningful army service. They viewed the challenges that corona presented as making the year much more special.
- 2) The need for personal attention to each participant is growing. We have been very proud of our abilities here and have learned that this is an area of increased concern for the students as we help them prepare for the army, while also strengthening their religious identity, enhancing their empowerment as women, and enhance their leadership skills. We are increasing our staffing to meet all the needs so we can excel in this area.