



Teach First Israel Update May, 2010

Shalom Everyone!

Teach First Israel is moving forward rapidly:

Every day, we achieve new goals. Every day brings us closer to July 18th: the grand opening of the training program.

Over the past week, our excitement reached another peak when we had the opportunity to finally meet the outstanding students who applied to become **TFI** teachers!

On the global front, **Teach First Israel** has recently joined the network of thirteen countries located in four continents called: **Teach for All** - the global network for expanding educational opportunity.



Teach First Israel and **Teach For All** - contract signing

Left: Asaf Banner (TFI Director), Shlomit Amichai (TFI chairperson), Mariyam Farooq (TFALL representative), Professor Yossi Tamir (Tevet Director), Arnon Mantver (JDC-Israel Director)



Here is a status update of our advancement:

- **Recruitment** - TFI recruiters have been working relentlessly in Israel's six universities under the leadership of Director of Recruitment and Screening, Itay Soudry, aiming to reach out and recruit Israel's finest university students to TFI. An impressive sum of 675 applications have been submitted - all of which by outstanding, excelling students.
- **Screening** – TFI worked in close collaboration with the [National Institute for Testing and Evaluation](#) and with the [National Authority for Testing and Evaluation in Education](#) (an independent professional unit, directly subordinated to Israel's Education Minister), and constructed TFI's unique screening model. During a very short period, TFI has managed to recruit and train the screening team whose painstaking task is to select TFI's first 100 future teachers. The screening process is close to completion, after three screening days in three different locations. The Applicants for TFI submitted two lengthy application forms, were interviewed twice and participated in group dynamics in addition to preparing and teaching a class.



Teach First Israel screening day, May 2010



TFI chairperson, Shlomit Amichai and Donor Avraham Kadar (BrainPop) speaking to students on screening day.

Testimonies:

"I would have chosen the eight candidates I've seen in the group to become teachers right away, even the weaker candidate was excellent!" - Yoel Rap, a senior manager in the [National Authority for Testing and Evaluation in Education](#) who participated in the screening process.

"All candidates I've seen were simply excellent!" - Rivka Friedlander, a senior science teacher and a senior fellow in the Technology Education unit in the Jerusalem Municipality.



- **Training** – TFI issued a tender in order to select its academic partner for training the participants. The tender was recently awarded to Haifa University and Beit Berl Teacher's College who submitted a joint proposal. Thanks to many efforts made by Gali Einis, TFI's Director of Training and Placement, and the tender committee, the tender process was relatively short. In addition, the fact that a university and a teacher's college are joining forces in order to create a new, innovative teacher training program is an unprecedented initiative that is most welcomed by the Ministry of Education. We aim to complete creating and styling the training program over the next few months, based on the teacher training outline recommended by Israel's [Council for Higher Education](#). The training program is composed of three semesters. The first semester will take place in the Haifa area over the summer and will be packed, intensive and demanding. The following two semesters will take place in the center of Israel over the course of the school year in concentrated days alongside close guidance and mentoring.
- **Placement** – TFI made a strategic decision to place students in four locations during the 2010-2011 pilot year: Jerusalem (Israel's largest and poorest city), Holon, Be'er Sheva and Haifa. We are mapping potential schools in the relevant districts in cooperation with the Education Ministry. Responses from the field are extremely enthusiastic, particularly those coming from school principals who express a wish to become TFI schools.
- **Technological Knowledge Management System** - TFI's Knowledge Management team has built a temporary internet site in record time in order to serve as a tool to meet urgent recruitment needs. The team's next goal is to create a more sophisticated website and a computerized support system for TFI's new teachers, mentors, advisors and professors. Our goal is to have the system up by July 2010.
- **Partnership with the business sector** – We are happy to report that large companies and corporations are keen to join the TFI effort, and can already name [McKinsey & Company](#), [Leumi Bank](#), [Google Israel](#), [Phoenix Insurance](#) and [Cellcom](#) on our partner list. We await responses from other companies and are confident that together we will widen TFI's impact further.
- **Resource Development** – We are still looking to expand our financing possibilities in order to ensure the smooth running of the program for the next three years.
I will be happy to be in touch with you on the subject.

Best Regards,

Asaf Banner

Director
Teach First Israel

Shlomit Amichai

Chairperson
Teach First Israel