

Teach First Israel

Update

June, 2010

Shalom Everyone!

Teach First Israel's offices are full of commotion these days, as we prepare for the grand opening on the summer institute on July 18th. The official launch of **TFI** is scheduled to take place on July 21st. Among our invitees: The Minister of Education, the Ministry of Education's Director General, **TFI's** founding partners, academic partners, corporate sponsors, business leaders, senior officials from the Ministry of Education, philanthropists, friends, supporters and of course, the first cohort of **TFI**!

Here is a status update of our advancement:

- **Recruitment and Screening** - **TFI** completed its first recruitment and screening process for 2010-2011 with an impressive sum of 705 applications that have been submitted - all of which by outstanding, excelling students. 120 passed the extensive screening processed, out of which 80 were chosen to participate in **TFI's** first cohort and be placed in schools across Israel.*



Teach First Israel first cohort from Haifa, meet for the first time

- **Placement** – Out of the 80 students chosen to participate in **TFI's** first cohort, 65 have been placed in four locations: Jerusalem (Israel's largest and poorest city), Holon, Bat Yam, Be'er Sheva and Haifa. Placement for 15 additional students is pending. These students have been notified and painstaking efforts are made to find suitable placements for them.*

Testimonies: A senior official in a municipality and a supervisor from the Ministry of Education, both of whom former principals, were thrilled to discover that two former students of their – both outstanding in their achievements, are participants in **TFI's** first cohort!

One official exclaimed:

"We will accept the **TFI** teachers with open arms! It is a compliment to see that they see education in general and teaching in particular, a target worthy of their efforts. These young people will become excellent teachers!

*It is our intention to examine the recruitment, screening and placement process, in order to clarify successes and challenges that need to be addressed and dealt with before commencing the preparatory work for the 2011 recruitment process of the second cohort of **TFI**.

- **Training** – TFI is working tirelessly, together with its academic partners, Haifa University and Beit Berl Teacher's College, to complete creating and styling the training program, scheduled to open in July 18th. Members of the TFI team, together with representatives from Beit Berl Teacher's College, were invited to participate in a seminar that focused on training, hosted by *Teach First* in England. The study visit was extremely successful and strengthened the bond between TFI and its partners, who gained a deeper understanding of the uniqueness of the program. The program is 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. Studies will be held at Haifa University during the days, and at "Shfe'Ya Youth Village" in the evenings. 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.
- As part of the preparations for the launch of **Teach First Israel**, the TFI team has met with a focus group composed from the group of participants from the first cohort of TFI. The focus group discussed electing a group to represent the participants and the kind of involvement and impact such a group should have. In addition, the TFI team held an initial feedback session regarding the recruitment and screening process, as part of its learning process in preparation for 2011.
- **Technological Knowledge Management System** – TFI intends to introduce its new website in time for the opening of the summer institute in July. The internal website designed for TFI's professional community of teachers and mentors is scheduled to be up by September 2010, just in time for the participants' placement within the schools.
- **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 the [Azrieli Foundation](#), [Intel Israel](#), [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.
- **Thanks** – This is TFI's start-up year. Tasks are endless and demand paving new paths and constantly creating creative solutions. The Ministry of Education is an active partner in the process and we owe many thanks to the Training and Professional Development of Teaching Staff team, working under the leadership of Deputy Director General, Ms. Gila Nagar; Mr. Noach Grinfeld, the Director of Teacher Education as well as the Senior Division Manager of Human Resources in teaching, Mr. Zion Shabbat. Additional partners to our efforts are Regional Directors in the regions where TFI is placing teachers this year, Directors of Education in the various municipalities and above all, the principals in the different schools. We wish to express our deepest thanks to everyone, and hope that soon we will all enjoy the fruits of our efforts!

Best Regards,
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