



What is unique about Hand in Hand schools?

In Israel over 99% of Jewish and Arab students learn in separate school tracks: Jews with Jews, Arabs with Arabs. This institutionalized separation, which exists for many reasons, perpetuates stereotypes, mistrust and alienation. Even Israel's State Comptroller has criticized its harmful effects, yet it persists as the longstanding norm.

Hand in Hand schools offer an alternative to this institutionalized separation through a fully integrated educational framework for Arabs and Jews from preschool through grade 12. Our schools promote and model equality while teaching bilingualism and multiculturalism. Currently Hand in Hand's seven schools serve over 2,000 students; 60% are Arab and 40% are Jewish. Our students learn from Jewish and Arab teachers, each speaking in his/her native language. They learn about Arab and Jewish history and culture, explore the narratives of both peoples, and follow a school calendar that honors the major holidays of Jews, Muslims and Christians.

The leadership team behind Hand in Hand schools consists of Jews and Arabs working together in partnership to foster equality and a shared society for all citizens. Arab and Jewish parents and siblings along with local community members, take part in educational activities and gatherings throughout the year, expanding the impact of our schools far beyond campuses into communities around the country.

Who funds Hand in Hand schools?

Hand in Hand schools get their funding from three sources: the public sector, philanthropists and parents. Our schools are public schools and receive a basic level of funding from the Ministry of Education. As government funding covers only the core components of schools, we raise the funds necessary for the unique bilingual, multicultural aspects. Our donors include individuals, foundations, businesses, federations, churches, synagogues, and foreign governments. We also receive funds from modest student tuition fees. As our students come from a wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds, we provide scholarships to families of students who cannot afford to pay tuition, ensuring that any student who wants to learn in our schools can do so. Currently, some 15% of our students receive scholarships.

What do students learn at Hand in Hand schools?

Alongside core subjects like math, physics, chemistry and English, our students learn to contend compassionately and skillfully with the challenges of living together in Israel. They learn Hebrew and Arabic so that they can converse in one another's mother tongues. They also study identity, history, and religion, along with civic responsibility.

How do you deal with the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict at school?

The reality of segregation, inequality and conflict is something we contend with daily in our classrooms serving diverse students. Hand in Hand teachers train in dialogue skills and conflict resolution so that they can facilitate respectful discussion on complex issues, and provide a safe space in which Jewish and Arab students can express themselves openly while

learning skills for active listening and empathy. We harness moments of tension and dialogue as important opportunities for students and staff to build trust and resilience, stay connected to one another, and form new ways of thinking and working together.

What is Hand in Hand's impact?

- ❖ **Education:** Our alumni identify strongly with the values of justice, equality, and social responsibility. In a recent evaluation more than 75% of alumni respondents noted that their Hand in Hand education provided them the tools to positively impact society including strong critical thinking skills, dialogue skills, the capacity to embrace diversity and complexity, and the ability to easily connect with people from different backgrounds.
- ❖ **Community Organizing:** Hand in Hand students, teachers, and staff are just the inner circle of the growing numbers of people we impact. In a society where separation is the norm, Hand in Hand nurtures whole communities that practice shared living. Some 10,000 individuals are part of our communities across the country.
- ❖ **Public Sector Partnership:** Hand in Hand is increasingly leveraging its expertise to help reshape norms in the education system at large. We do this by collaborating with other entities such as universities, and the public sector on local and national levels. Our public partnerships help promote equality and representation in education, employment, and public spaces.

What are your alumni up to?

Hundreds of Arab and Jewish young adults have graduated from Hand in Hand schools. They are the ambassadors of the values of equality and shared society that Hand in Hand aspires to cultivate as a force for social change in Israel. After completing high school, the majority of Hand in Hand alumni earn academic degrees at universities in Israel and abroad, and undertake employment in a range of professions, especially in the nonprofit, government, and education sectors. Our alumni actively take part in promoting social change - on campuses, in workplaces, within communities, and in broader Israeli society.

Hand in Hand supports an alumni network, nurturing these young change agents in translating their shared educational experiences into mature engagement and leadership. The alumni network is led by a staff coordinator and a central committee of fifteen highly active alumni who source meaningful programming for peers.

How can I get involved in Hand in Hand?

There are a variety of ways you can get involved in Hand in Hand and help us continue to foster equality and shared society. You can: stay up to date on developments in our work through [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#); [donate](#) any level of gift - our work relies on gifts such as yours; help spread the word by telling your friends about us; and come visit one of our schools next time you visit Israel.

To learn more about Hand in Hand visit our website at www.handinhandk12.org
or email us at info@handinhandk12.org