

Increasing justice in education and breaking the connection between background and academic achievement

Yeholot's Programs for Matriculation and Preventing Dropout Start and Ascola

Joint Programs between the Ministry of Education and Yeholot Organization – Established by
the Rashi Foundation

Accelerated academic track and structural change to increase scholastic success and prevent dropouts in high schools, for 9th grade youth at risk who prior to joining the program exhibited the lowest achievements in their grade and had more than 7 failing grades (adjusted), and by the end of the program in 12th grade 68.8% were eligible for their matriculation certificate (64.0%¹ of those began the program in 10th grade).

Summary

Quantitative Results Report 2015/2016 School Year

613 12th grade graduates across 18 high schools in the geo-social periphery who began the program in 10th grade in 2013 and completed 12th grade in 2016

- Eligibility rates for Matriculation Certificate • Persistence Rates • Contribution of the Program to the Eligibility Rates in Participating Schools and Communities



The data in this report was received from the administrations of the participating school and the statistical analysis is based on it. All the data and analysis in the report were checked and approved by the staff of the School of Education – Tel Aviv University

Partners in Yeholot Start and Ascola Programs for Gradates of 12th Grade 2016:

- Prime Minister's Office ▪ Check Point ▪ Rosenblum Foundation ▪ Glencore ▪ Goldberg Foundation ▪ Darca Network of Schools ▪ ORT Israel ▪ Amal Educational Network
- Anonymous Donors
- The Educational Divisions and Branches of Participating Networks

April 2018, Iyyar 5778

www.yeholot.org.il

¹ At the completion of 3 years in the program (10 – 12th grade), 64.0% of those beginning their studies in the program in 10th grade completed the program and earned their matriculation certificate.

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22 February 2018

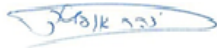
To
Mr. Nisim Cohen
CEO Yeholot Association
Mikveh Israel Youth Village

Subject – Approval from Tel Aviv University for the Data and Report on the Activities of the Yeholot Start and Ascola Programs for Matriculation, 2016

- A. We welcome the activities of the Yeholot Association, Established by the Rashi Foundation in the High Schools in the periphery.
- B. I hereby approve with this, that all the details, components and results relating to those completing 12th grade as part of the Yeholot Start Ascola Program were submitted for our examination. This data is based on data and written reports approved and signed by the school principals and received from the participating schools in the program whose graduates completed 12th grade in 2016 and relate to the following details and components:
 - 1. Reporting by the schools on the mapping of the academic achievements (anonymous) - prior to the program.
 - 2. Reporting by the schools on the suitable participants (anonymous) who meet the acceptance criteria for the program and their number, based on the mapping that was carried out before the program.
 - 3. Reporting by the school that the students selected for the program were defined by the school as having the lowest achievements.
(There are a small number of students who were accepted by exception according to the recommendation of the school although they do not have the lowest achievements in the class).
 - 4. Reporting by the school on the participants' 9th grade grades (their last grades before entering the program) anonymously and their belonging to a particular school track.
 - 5. Reporting by the school on all the participants who began, joined and completed or did not complete their studies in the program (dropped out vs. stayed in) whether in the school or another school.
 - 6. Reporting by the school on the matriculation exam grades of the program participants, on their eligibility or non-eligibility for a matriculation certificate for each of the graduates from the program in 2016.
- C. In 2014, 18 high schools joined the program with students beginning their studies in the 10th grade (of which students in 1 school began activities in 2015 in 11th grade) and in 2016 the students graduated 12th grade. This report includes data from all 18 schools.
- D. I hereby confirm that the data from the schools participating in the Yeholot Start and Ascola program for matriculation which began the program in 10th grade in 2014 and completed 12th grade in 2016, the calculations and statistical analysis and all the data presented in the report, and the report itself, have undergone our scrutiny and are approved.

Sincerely,

Prof. Yizhar Oplatka



School of Education

Tel Aviv Univeristy

CC: Prof. David Mioduser – Head of School of Education, TA University

Summary of the Results of the Yeholot Start and Ascola Program for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention – 2016 Graduates

A.1 Background – Yeholot Ascola Program and Initiative for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention

Yeholot – Start Program – Works in coordination with the Education Ministry in high schools in the periphery by pooling school resources (teaching hours) and additional resources, including: The Yeholot Association, Rashi Foundation, and education departments in the participating communities in the periphery.

Yeholot – Ascola Program – Is a Yeholot Start Program that works in the framework of a joint venture between the Pedagogic Department of the Education Ministry, Branch for Children and Teens at Risk, Rashi Foundation, and the Yeholot Association founded by the Rashi Foundation, with the goal of expanding the Yeholot's activities by strengthening the cooperation with the Education Ministry. The Yeholot Ascola Program began in 2013 (9th grade).

Yeholot Start and Yeholot Ascola Programs – are Identical.

The current report will focus on the 12th grade graduates in 2016 from all 18 schools in the Yeholot **Start and Ascola** Programs for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention.

In 2016, 20 high schools were operating within the framework of the program with a total of 2,485 students (9th – 12th grade). From these 20 schools, 18 were running the program across all 4 grades and 2 schools were running it only for 9th – 11th grades.

Yeholot Start and Ascola Programs are intended for at-risk high school students in the geo-social periphery; 9th graders with the lowest academic achievements in their classes who are not diagnosed as requiring special education and who are found to be in hidden dropout and on the verge of actual dropout. These students generally display alienation, behavioral problems, learning difficulties, and large academic gaps.

The goal of the program is to lead these students to earn a matriculation certificate, to prevent their dropping out from school (hidden and overt), to improve their academic functioning, and to increase their sense of ability and belonging and their aspiration for higher academic learning.

The program runs 3 years (from the end of 9th grade to the end of 12th grade), is run by coordinators and teachers from the high schools and is led by the management of the participating schools' administration who receive training and pedagogic guidance from the pedagogic staff of the Yeholot Association. The program takes place during school hours, the afternoon, the evening, and part of school vacations in designated classes in which Yeholot's principles and accelerated learning structure are applied³. The program works towards structural change and upward mobility with its comprehensive and accelerated method and is intended for the lowest achievers in the 9th grade.

³ All rights reserved, Nisim (Max) Cohen, educational sociologist, developer of the Accelerated Method for Reducing Gaps.

A.2 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the activities of the Yeholot Start and Ascola Program in the 18 schools that began the program with 10th graders in 2014 (one school began operations in 2015 with 11th graders) and finished at the end of 12th grade. The results that are measured and presented in the report cover hidden and overt dropout, earning matriculation certificate, and relate to and present the academic achievements prior to beginning the program at the end of 9th grade (2013). Similarly, the report will present the proportion of the students in the program relative to the general population eligible for matriculation in the participating schools and communities and the school wide eligibility rates for matriculation in the 18 participating schools.

A.3 Main Findings

a. Characteristics of the Schools in the Programs

The economic and social ranking of the schools in the program:

There were 18 high schools whose graduates completed 12th grade in the framework of the program (11 schools with Yeholot-Start and 7 with Yeholot-Start Ascola), from the geo-social periphery in the Jewish, Negev Bedouin, and Druzi sectors in the south, north and Tel Aviv districts.

Jewish Sector – 10 schools; **Negev Bedouin Sector** – 5 schools; **Druzi Sector** – 3 schools

“Care Index” (Straus)⁴ – the average of the 18 schools is 7.3

The average rank on the “Care Index” of the 18 schools in the program is 7.3 (Strauss), And in Average ranked in the bottom third

b. The Characteristics of the Students Accepted to the Program and Their Grades Before Beginning the Program in 9th Grade:

1. In 2014, in the 18 schools, 578 at-risk students at the beginning of 10th grade were accepted to the program who at the end of 9th grade, before beginning the program, were defined as having the lowest achievements⁵ in their school. Such that:

- Their average grade at the end of 9th grade was 43.3 (adjusted).⁶
- On the average, each student was failing 7.2 classes (adjusted) in school.

2. During 10th grade an additional 5 students joined the program and during 11th grade 30 more joined. In total, 613 students began their studies in the program (578 began in 10th and 35 joined later in either 10th or 11th grade).

3. The average final grade in 9th grade for all 613 students beginning and subsequently joining⁷: 43.4 (adjusted).

⁴ The “Care Index” (Straus) is a scale used by Education Ministry to measure the socio-economic background of the students on the scale of 1 – 10. The higher the number the more disadvantaged, and vice versa.

⁵ Although students defined as requiring special education are generally not part of the program, a limited number of special ed. students (7) participated in the program at the request of the school administration and with the experience from the 9th grade preparatory program who felt that the methods of the Yeholot program would be beneficial for the students.

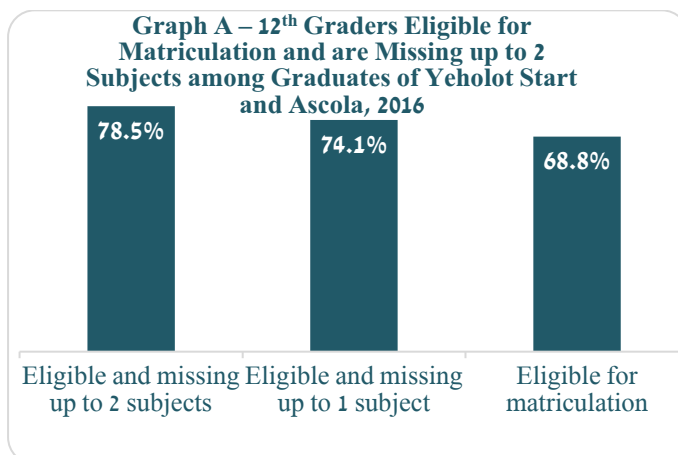
⁶ The adjusted scores from 9th grade of the 578 students who began their studies in the program in 10th grade in the 17 schools and from the 1 school with the students who began in 11th grade.

⁷ According to the existing records for 607 students out of the 613 (578 began in 10th grade and another 35 joined later in 10th and 11th). 6 students did not have any 9th grade data. The 35 who joined fulfilled the criteria for acceptance to the program and their average grade in 9th grade was 44.8 (adjusted) and they received failing grades in 6.3 subjects (adjusted) in average.

- On the average, every participating student had failing grades in 7.2 subjects (adjusted).
1. The single criterion to be accepted to the program was to have the lowest academic achievements in 9th grade.

c. After – The Students at the End of 12th Grade - Eligible for Matriculation:

- 68.8% of the students who finished 12th grade in 2016 within the framework of the program earned their matriculation certificate (396 out of 576).
- 64.6% of those beginning and joining later in 10th and 11th earned their matriculation certificate (396 out of 613).
- 64.3% of those beginning and joining later in 10th grade earned their matriculation certificate (375 out of 583).
- 64.0% of those beginning in 10th grade earned their matriculation certificate (370 out of 578).
- 59.1% of those beginning in 10th grade, and who failed at least 7 subjects in 9th grade, earned their matriculation certificate (218 out of 369).
- 100% of those eligible may now be accepted to higher academic learning.
- 32.2% of those eligible now have the required matriculation certificate for acceptance to university⁸ (128 out of 396).



d. Students in the Program - Persistence in School

- 96.1% of the students who began or joined⁹ later completed 12th grade either in the school where the program was active or in another high school (589 out of 613).
- 94.0% of those beginning or joining later finished 12th grade in the school where the program was run (576 out of 613) in the framework of the program.

e. The Students in the Program - Hidden Dropout and Fulfilling the Role of the Student

1. 78.5% of those finishing 12th grade are eligible for matriculation and are missing up to 2 subjects for a matriculation certificate eligibility (Graph A).

⁸ A matriculation certificate that enables admission to the university - according to the definition of the Ministry of Education - is a full matriculation certificate that includes a passing grade in at least 4 units of English subjects and 3 units in Math.

⁹ 578 who began their studies in the program at the beginning of 10th grade. 35 additional students joined the program during 10th and 11th grade. In total, 613 students began or joined the program.

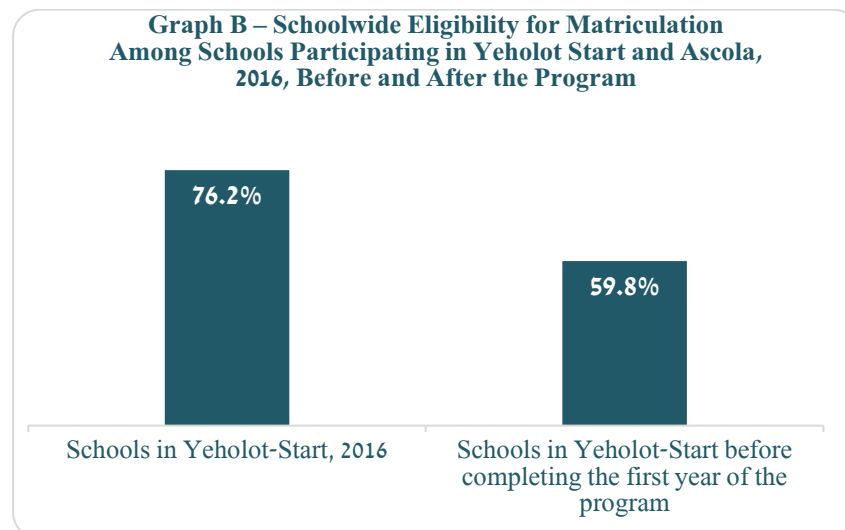
2. 73.4% of those beginning in 10th grade are eligible for matriculation and are missing up to 2 subjects for a matriculation certificate.

The above findings indirectly demonstrate the significant improvements of the students, leading to a meaningful reduction of academic gaps and the phenomenon of hidden dropout.

f. Participating schools – Schoolwide eligibility

1. The participating schools in the Yeholot Start and Ascola Program who had 12th graders graduate in 2016 are from the geo-social periphery, are under governmental supervision of public schools, religious-public schools, Druze schools and Bedouin schools, and, as mentioned above, are ranked in the bottom third in the “Care Index” (Straus) with an average ranking of 7.3.

2. In the 18 participating schools in the Yeholot Start and Ascola Program who had 12th graders graduate in 2016, in average the schoolwide eligibility rate in 2016 was 76.2% (among students who finished 12th grade) (Graph B). The average eligibility rate in these schools before joining the program was 59.8%.

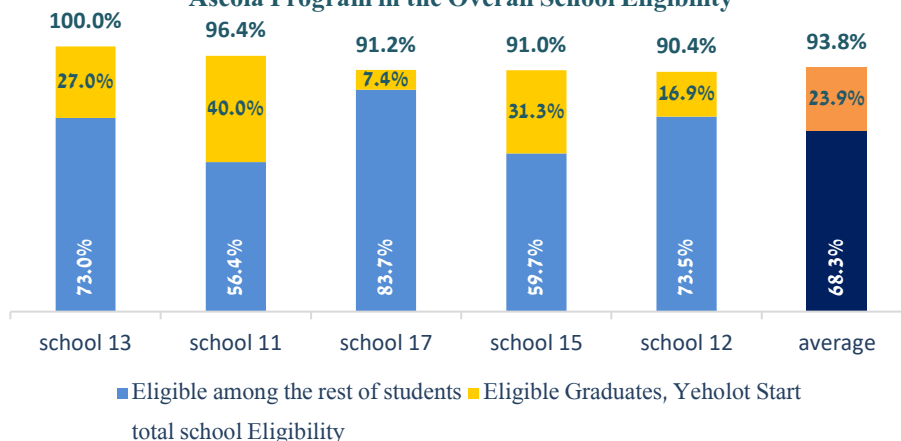


3. In 5 out of the 18 schools in the program (27.8%), the schoolwide eligibility for matriculation rate rose **above 90.0%** (93.8% average) (Graph C).

4. In the average of these 5 these schools – the **Start and Ascola Program** accounted for 23.9% of the schoolwide eligibility for matriculation (Graph C).

5. In one school out of the 18, the schoolwide eligibility rate **rose to 100%** and this rate has remained stable for 4 years in a row.

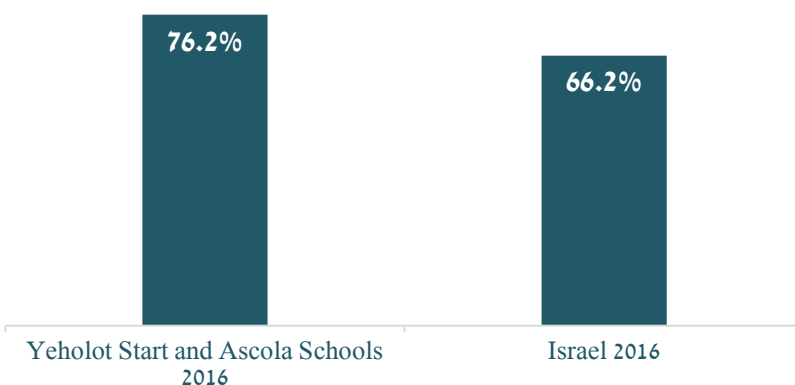
Graph C – 2016, The 5 Schools in the Program, in which there is higher than 90% Schoolwide Matriculation Eligibility (among 12th Graders) and the Proportion of Participants in the Start and Ascola Program in the Overall School Eligibility



6. In 61.1% of the schools (11 out of 18), the schoolwide eligibility rate for matriculation rose above 80.0%.

7. The average eligibility rates in all 18 participating schools in the program in 2016 was 76.2%, 10% higher than the average eligibility rate in Israel in 2016 (66.2%) (Education Ministry, 2017). (Graph D)

Graph D – Eligibility for Matriculation among 12th Graders in Yeholot Start and Ascola, 2016, in Comparison to Israel

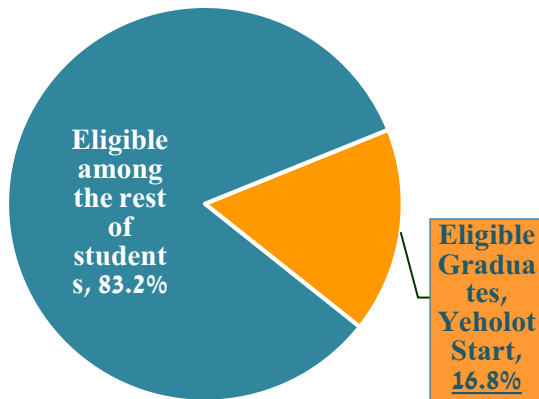


g. The proportion of eligible Yeholot Start and Ascola students in the school wide eligibility

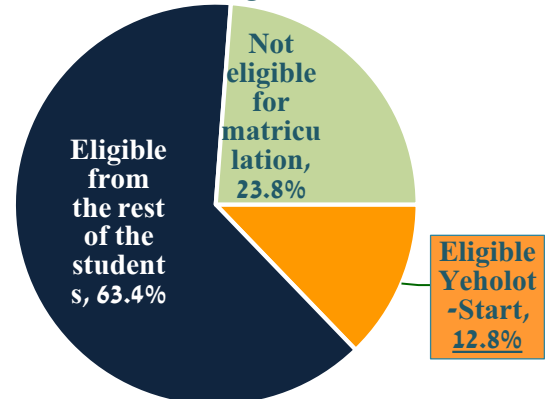
1. 16.8% of all those eligible for matriculation in the 18 participating schools are graduates of the Yeholot Start Ascola program (Graph E).

2. 12.8% of 12th grade graduates eligible for matriculation in the 18 participating schools are graduates in the Yeholot Start Ascola program (Graph F).

Graph E – Overall Distribution of those Eligible for Matriculation in Participating Schools and the Proportion of those Eligible from Yeholot Start and Ascola, 2016



Graph F – All 12th Grade Graduates in Participating Schools and the Distribution of those Eligible for Matriculation among the Graduates of Yeholot Start and Ascola, Compared to the Students in the Schools, and those Not Eligible, 2016



h. Proportion of Eligible Students from the Yeholot Start and Ascola Programs among all Eligible Students for Matriculation per community

In 2016, graduates of Yeholot Start and Ascola completed 12th grade in 18 schools in 11 communities in the periphery and 396 of whom were eligible for matriculation.

- **396 graduates of Yeholot Start and Ascola were eligible for matriculation, this constitutes 8.1% of all the 4,903 eligible graduates in the 11 participating communities.**

Breakdown:

Beer sheva:

5.6% of all the graduates in the city eligible for matriculation (99 out of 1,778) were graduates of Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 5 high schools.

In Beer sheva there are 23 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Carmiel:

7.0% of all the graduates in the city eligible for matriculation (28 out of 401) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 2 high schools.

In Carmiel there are 5 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Bat Yam:

6.0% of all the graduates in the city eligible for matriculation (59 out of 982) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 2 high schools.

In Bat Yam there are 13 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Kiryat Shemona:

6.2% of all the graduates in the city eligible for matriculation (12 out of 195) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 1 high school.

In Kiryat Shemona there are 4 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Beit Jann:

26.6% of all the graduates in the town eligible for matriculation (53 out of 199) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 1 high school.

In Beit Jann there is 1 high school, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Peqi'in:

28.4% of all the graduates in the town eligible for matriculation (21 out of 74) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 1 high school.

In Peqi'in there is 1 high school, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Mughar:

6.4% of all the graduates in the town eligible for matriculation (20 out of 313) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 1 high school.

In Mughar there are 3 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Hura:

18.7% of all the graduates in the town eligible for matriculation (31 out of 166) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 1 high school.

In Hura there are 5 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Kseifa:

13.4% of all the graduates in the town eligible for matriculation (22 out of 164) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 1 high school.

In Kseifa there are 3 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Rahat:

6.5% of all the graduates in the city eligible for matriculation (32 out of 492) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 2 high schools.

In Rahat there are 8 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

Tel Sheva:

13.7% of all the graduates in the town eligible for matriculation (19 out of 139) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 1 high school.

In Tel Sheva there are 3 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

j. Proportion of Eligible Students from the Yeholot Start and Ascola Program among all Eligible Students for Matriculation in the Druze Sector

Druze Sector:

5.6% of all the graduates in the Druze Sector eligible for matriculation (94 out of 1,687) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 3 high schools.

In the Druze Sector there are 22 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.

i. Proportion of Eligible Students from the Yeholot Start and Ascola Program among all Eligible Students for Matriculation in the Negev Bedouin Sector

The Negev Bedouin Sector:

5.3% of all the graduates in the Negev Bedouin Sector eligible for matriculation (104 out of 1,948) were graduates of the Yeholot Start and Ascola, from 5 high schools.

In Negev Bedouin Sector there are 34 high schools, including 10th - 12th grades in regular education, both with recognized official and recognized unofficial status.