

Beit Jann Comprehensive School is the Leading High School in Israel: All of Its Students Completed Their Matriculation

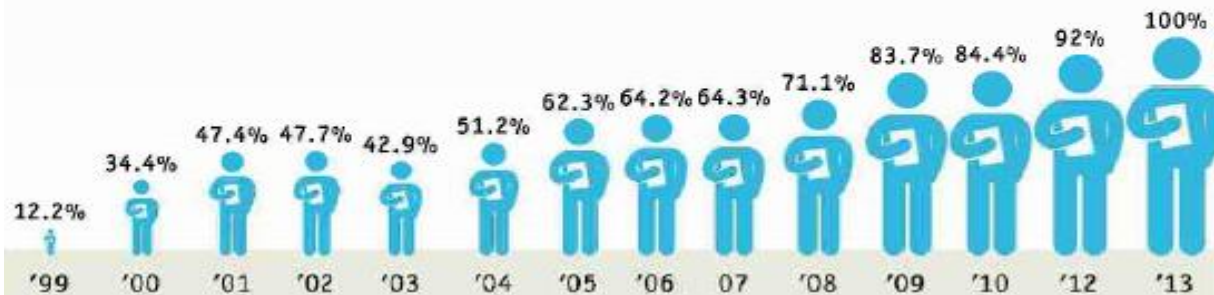
91.2% of the 12th grade students from Beit Jann who study in the town or in adjacent schools were eligible for matriculation in 2013 – a figure similar to that of Kokhav Yair, which leads in matriculation eligibility in Israel. The high school in the village surpassed wealthier towns and institutions in matriculation eligibility

Lior Dattel

The Druze village of Beit Jann, one of the weakest towns in Israel, is ranked second place in national matriculation eligibility rankings, amongst 12th graders living there during the 2012-2013 school year. According to the Ministry of Education's data, approximately 91.2% of the 12th grade students in the town were eligible for a matriculation certificate in 2013. This rate is similar to that achieved by the students living in Kokhav Yair (93.4%) who were

Everyone is Eligible

Rate of matriculation eligibility amongst graduates of 12th grade at Beit Jann Comprehensive High School



ranked in first place, and higher than achievements by students in wealthy towns in Israel Such as Givataim (85.12%), Raanana (84.98%), Herzelyia (81.92%), and Ramat Hasharon (79.25%).

The high rate of eligibility in the town was achieved by virtue of the Beit Jann Comprehensive School, whose students demonstrated higher achievements than the town average, which includes students studying in other

towns. A year ago, an article was published in TheMarker about the best school in Israel in 2013 – Beit Jann Comprehensive. The article publicized the fact that the high school is expected to reach 100% matriculation



Ali Salalkha Photo: Gil Eliyahu

eligibility – the highest in Israel. That is to say, every student in the school achieved a matriculation certificate. This achievement was familiar up till then only to students in Savion. Currently, it is apparent that these

forecasts have come to pass: the school succeeded in achieving a rate of 100% matriculation eligibility not only in 2013, but so too in the last school year which ended in 2014 – this, according to the principal of the high school, Ali Salalkha.

The school surpassed wealthier towns in the Sharon and Central Districts, as well as private schools which screen students, without engaging in methods such as dropping and weeding out students. Furthermore, its teaching staff even brought students back into the educational system who had dropped out and gone to vocational schools – without a full matriculation

certificate. The school's achievements burst the assumption common amongst senior members of the educational system that not all students are able to finish high school with a full matriculation and therefore it is necessary to ensure alternative channels for them such as vocational high schools.

In 1999, the eligibility rate of graduates of the school in Beit Jann amounted to only 13% and was one of the lowest in Israel, and began to increase incrementally every year. **In order to meet the goal, they integrated activities run by the Yeholot Association which was founded by the Rashi**

Foundation, which operates in collaboration with the Ministry of Education's Welfare Services Branch.

"Yes, the school reached an eligibility rate of 100% in 2013 compared to 91.4% in 2012, but we reproduced the achievement in 2014 as well," said Salalkha to TheMarker. "All 183 students in the school have a matriculation certificate, and not just any matriculation certificate – but rather a **quality** matriculation certificate."

According to him, the achievements at the school were a result of the collaboration between the Ministry of Education, the Local Council, the teaching staff at the school, the

students' parents, and **the Yeholot Association.**

"Everything began from the fact that we defined our vision. We want to be the best and leading school in Israel," said Salalkha. "We worked in a simple manner – we stipulated that the teaching staff needs to be cohesive and take care of students, and they indeed carried out this sacred work. But the success has an additional element and that is the parents, who became an integral part of the school."

Salalkha take pride in the care of all of the students. "in the school they take care of the student fringes. We prepare the stronger students for university and prestigious

professions but the big success came by virtue of the care taken of weak students. These are students who were a hump on the school's back, but by **virtue of the Yeholot Association's program, we received new teaching methods which the teachers advanced as well as assistance in study and practice hours for the students,"** he explains. "The **Association changed its method of working with the weakest students.** In addition, to assistance from the Weak Student Welfare Services Division which operates within the Ministry of Education." [sic]