

Tafnit Program for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention - Start

General studies combined with accelerated learning and growing structural change

To increase academic success and prevent high school dropout

Summary Report: Results of Tafnit "Start" Program For Matriculation and Dropout Prevention, 2010/11

*Youth at risk with 7 Standardised fail grades¹ in 9th grade prior to the program
Completed 12th grade and 66% of them received a matriculation certificate
(58%² from the beginners in 10th grade).*

General – Program Background

- **Students accepted to the program** – 9th grade youth at risk in junior high with the lowest achievements in their grade, dropout in potential, and on the verge of revealed dropout. Average grades: 54 and below. Over half of the students accepted had 7 standardised fail grades and more, while finishing 9th grade.
- **Objective** – All the program's students will acquire a matriculation certificate and their dropping out will be prevented (hidden and actual).
- **The program** – lasts over 3 years (from the end of 9th grade to completion of 12th grade. Support continues in the IDF and through higher education).
The program is operated by high school coordinators and teachers (who have undergone training and received pedagogical guidance from Tafnit Program – Rashi Foundation pedagogical instructors), under the leadership of the principals, in the participating schools.
The program is based on the premise that every child is able to succeed at school. In the framework of the program, the students study during and after school hours and during some vacations in designated classes. The program operates in cooperation with the Ministry of Education's districts supervision, its Shacha"r (Education and Welfare Services) Branch and the heads of the education departments in the localities.
- **Students in the program in 2012** – Over 2,500 9th - 12th graders in 20 schools in 10 localities.

A. Background of 2010/11 12th grade graduates of the program

- **Schools** – 15 high schools under state, state-religious, Bedouin and Druz school supervision in the Southern, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa districts in 8 localities in Israel's periphery.
- **Students** – 455 students completed their 12th grade studies in the program, in the aforementioned 15 schools, in 2010/11
- **Socio-economic rating³** – The average socio-economic rating of the 15 schools is 7.45.

¹ Grades standardized as done by the Ministry of Education, Shacha"r Branch and as detailed in Ben Gurion University, 2008, Graduates of Start-Tafnit for Matriculation Dropout Prevention Program, http://tafnit.rashi.org.il/menu/evaluation/start_en.pdf

² After 3 years of participating in the program (9th-12th graders), in 12th grade, 58.0% from the beginners in 9th grade, have acquired a matriculation certificate.

³ This is a Ministry of Education rating system for all schools in Israel to evaluate the socio-economic situation of a school by its study body, calculating such components as family income and size, parents' level of education etc. The scale is 1-10 in which socio-economically well-to-do schools are in the 1-3 range while the lowest actual ratings are in the 8-9 range.

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B. Scholastic achievements of the 2010/11 12th graders in 9th grade prior to the program

1. Average numbers of standardised fail⁴ grades per student – 7.2.
2. Average standardised general grade 49.2.
3. Rate of students with 7 standardised fail grades or more among those who began the program in 10th grade – 61.4%.

Grouping level at Junior high, prior to joining the program

- Students in 14 out of 15 highschools in the program were sorted by grouping/classes, during their ninth grade.
- 87.3% of the program's students were sorted to grouping class in the 9th grade.
- 81.9% of the above sorted students were sorted to the low grouping.

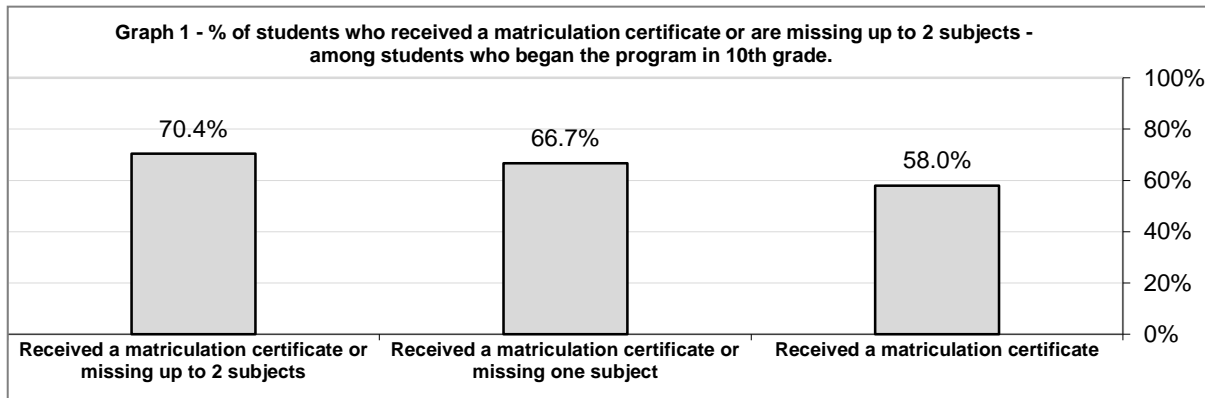
⁴ See remark 1

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C. Main results at the end of the program (end of 12th grade)

C.1. Program results

1. 58.0% of the students who joined the program in 10th grade 65.9% from 12th grade graduates are entitled to matriculation certificate.
2. 58.2% of the students who achieved matriculation certificate had at least 7 fail grades at the end of 9th grade.
3. 66.7% of the students who began the program in 10th grade received a matriculation certificate or are missing one subject to be able to receive a matriculation certificate (Graph 1).
4. 70.4% of the students who began in 10th grade received a matriculation certificate or are missing up to two subjects to be able to receive a matriculation certificate.
5. 100.0% of the students who received matriculation certificate, have certificates which enables acceptance to academic studies.
6. 46.7% of the students who received matriculation have certificates which allow acceptance to university.
7. 92.3% of the students in the program completed 12th grade in the school where the program too operated or in another high school.
8. 90.4% of the students in the program completed 12th grade in the school where the program operated in.



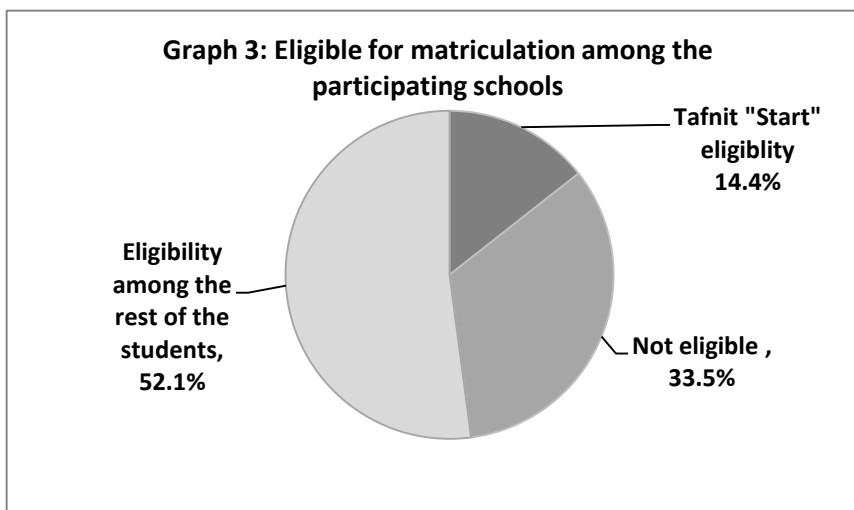
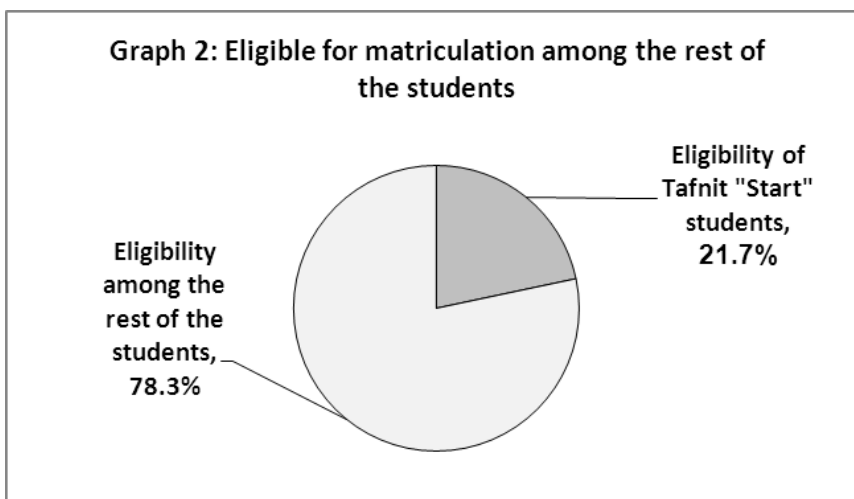
C.2. Behavior and perceptions

1. There is a significant drop in behavior problems among the program's students, from a rating of 2.6 to 1.8 (on a scale of 1-5).
2. There is a significant increase in aspirations and academic perception for the future, from a rating of 2.9 to 4.1 (on a scale of 1-5).
3. There is a significant increase in the internal focus of control, from a rating of 3.4 to 3.9 (on a scale of 1-5).
4. There is a significant increase in the feeling of belonging among the program's students, from a rating of 3.8 to 4.2 (on a scale of 1-5).
5. There is a significant increase in the feeling of independence among the program's students, from a rating of 3.3 to 3.9 (on a scale of 1-5)

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D. Contribution of the program to the matriculation rate in participating schools

1. 21.7% of all the students who received matriculation certificates in the program's schools are graduates of the Tafnit "Start" Program (Graph 2).
2. 14.4% of all the students who graduated high school at the participating schools received matriculation certificates as part of their participation in the Tafnit "Start" Program (Graph 3).



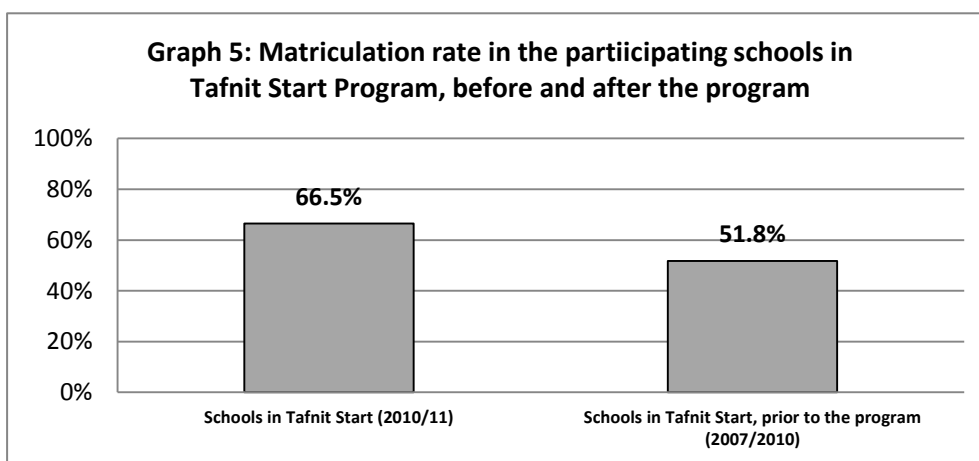
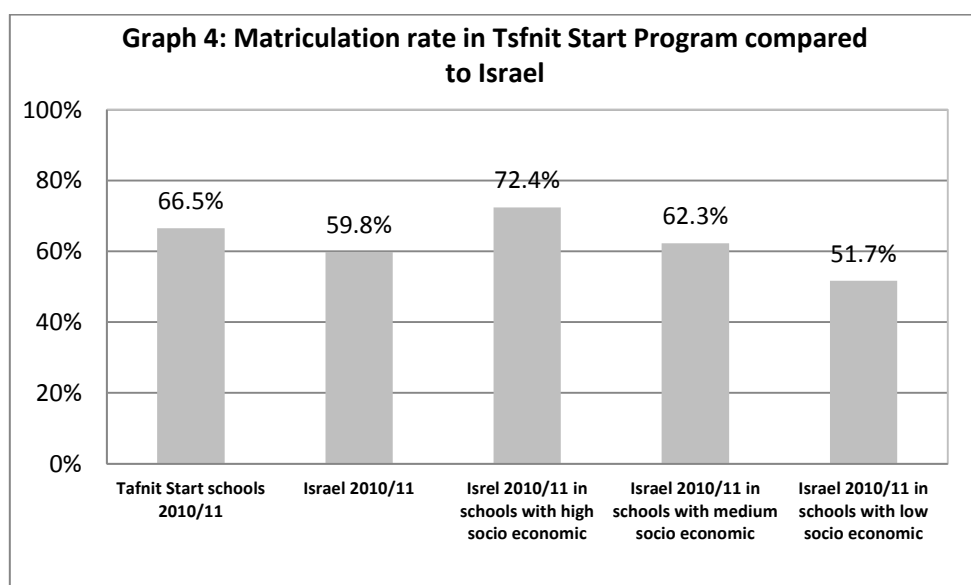
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E. An increase of 14.8% in the matriculation attainment rate in the participating schools

1. The percentage of students receiving matriculation certificates in the participating schools is 66.5% and increased by 14.8% in relation to the school matriculation rate prior to the program. (Graph 5).
2. In 40% of the schools (6 out of 15), the school matriculation rate increased by over 20% in relation to the rate prior to the program.
3. In the school with the highest matriculation eligibility rate in 2010/11, **85.0%** of the students completing 12th grade received matriculation certificate and 17.0% of them are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates.

F. Matriculation certificate attainment rate in the schools participating in the program

1. The matriculation eligibility rate in the Tafnit "Start" Program schools in 2010/11 is 66.5% is 6.7% higher than the 2010/11 average in Israel (Graph 4).
2. The matriculation rate in schools in the Tafnit "Start" Program in 2010/11 is 14.8% higher than the average matriculation rate in schools in Israel in localities with low socio-economic rating (schools similar to those in the Tafnit "Start" Program) (Graph 4).
3. The matriculation rate in schools in the Tafnit "Start" Program in 2010/11 is 4.2% higher than the average matriculation rate in schools in Israel Medium socio-economic rating, in 2010/11 (Graph 4)



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G. Contribution of Tafnit "Start" Program to the matriculation certificate attainment rate in localities and sectors

1. 5.3% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Beer Sheva are graduates of the program (from 5 schools in Beer Sheva).
2. 3.3% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Beit Shemesh are graduates of the program (from 2 schools in Beit Shemesh).
3. 5.0% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Bat Yam are graduates of the program (from 2 schools in Bat Yam).
4. 8.6% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Rahat are graduates of the program (from One Bedouin School in Rahat).
5. 13.3% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Tel Sheva are graduates of the program (from One Bedouin School in Tel Sheva).
6. 7.3% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Magar are graduates of the program (from One Druz School).
7. 10.4% of all students who received matriculation certificates in the Bedouin sector in the Negev graduates of the program (from 5 schools in Bedouin sector).
8. 1.7% of all students who received matriculation certificates in the Druze sector are graduates of the program (from One Druz School⁵).

⁵ <http://cms.education.gov.il/EducationCMS/Units/Exams/Netunim/Tahshaa>

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H. Appendix to the summary

H.1. Ben Gurion University's appraisal (July, 2008)⁶, Tafnit "Start" Program achievements compared to the control group (summary of the main findings)

In 2008 a study of "Start" program was carried out by the Ben-Gurion University in which the research compared the achievements of the 12th graders in "Start" Program to a control group from the achievements of 9th graders

- Students who received a matriculation certificate (in relation to students who began the program in 10th grade) - 53.1%, compared with 0.0% in the control group.
- Actual dropout (students who didn't complete 12th grade in relation to students beginning in 10th grade)- 6.7%, Compared with 11.1% in the control group.

H.2. IDF enlistment rate among Tafnit "Start" Program 2007, 2009

- **Start Graduates 2009-** 96.0% of the entire program's graduate boys have completed their IDF enlistment process in 2009, compared to 74.2% of all boys in Israel⁷.
- **Start Graduates 2007-** 95.3% of the entire program's graduate boys have completed their IDF enlistment process in 2007 ("AHARAY" Association Survey⁸), compared to 74.2% of all boys in Israel.

H.3. Start to Academy: Tel Aviv University's findings 2012⁹

- **Up till 5 yaers from Graduation**, 165 Start graduates (2007-2012) that represent 18.9% of all, that complited their military service, study or accepted to post high school studies and will start study in Israel or abroad for their B.A (103- post high school studies, 62- Diploma studies).
- 529 Start graduates, who represent **35.6% of all the respondents** among the graduates between the years 2007-2012, express intention to study higher and post-high school studies. (In Israel, the percentage of applicants to the academy within eight years from graduation is 44.5%¹⁰).

H.4. Quets of Graduates of the Tafnit "Start" Program¹¹

"... "When I got my Matriculation certificate, when they saw my marks were really good, my dad cried. He's very sensitive. And when the teachers invited him to talk, he said that before the program, he felt like he was losing me, that something was slipping between his hands. He knew I was smart, and he always believed in me. When the program ended and I saw I had a Matriculation certificate, I told myself 'Wow, you did it!' My Father was so proud. At the ceremony he cried and said he got me back."

"... I told myself I can't do it. I won't pass the exams, I won't go to university. It was too difficulta challenge for me. So now I say "there you go, you did it, I have an admission certificate. So if I managed todo all of that, why couldn't I do well there? ... I have the tools, I know the learning methods; I know how to sit and learn, more or less. Why won't it work there? So this is more or less the worldview directed by the program"¹².

⁶ Bar-On, N., Bar-Doron, M., Goroshet, M., Boglavski M., Levin Rosales M., Sagy M. (2008), **Graduates of "Start" – Tafnit for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention Program**, Ben Gurion University

⁷ Yeholot Association, **Report of Enlistment Rates for the IDF and National Service (Sherut Leumi) Graduates of "Start" - Tafnit for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention Program**, July 2010

⁸ Yeholot Association, **Report of Enlistment Rates for the IDF and National Service (Sherut Leumi) Graduates of "Start" - Tafnit for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention Program**, July 2008

⁹ Oplatka I., Survey **Peripheral participation in higher education academy And post-secondary studies in years 2010 and 2011 - Tafnit for Matriculation and Dropout Prevention Program**, Tel Aviv University, September 2012

¹⁰ Cbs 2011, Continuation to Higher Education among Upper Secondary School Graduates within 8 Years After Completing School, http://www.cbs.gov.il/reader/shnaton/templ_shnaton_e.html?num_tab=st08_47&CYear=2011

¹¹ Oplatka I. Nofar I., **Opinions of Graduates of the Tafnit's Program- "START" for Matriculation and Dropout-Prevention Regarding the Program Components and Contribution to Their Personal and Professional Development**. Tel Aviv University, 2011
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