

Summary Report: Results of the Tafnit "Start" Program for Matriculation Dropout Prevention, 2008/9¹

***Youth at risk with 7 fail grades in 9th grade prior to the program
completed 12th grade and 63% of them received a matriculation certificate².***

General – Program Background

- **Students accepted to the program** – 9th grade youth at risk in high schools with the lowest achievements in their grade who are hidden dropouts and on the verge of revealed dropout. Average grades: 54 and below. Over half of the students accepted have 7 and more fail grades.
- **Objective** – All the program's students will acquire a matriculation certificate and their dropping out will be avoided (hidden and actual).
- **The program** – lasts over 3 years (from the end of 9th grade to completion of 12th grade and support continues in the IDF and higher education) and is operated by high school coordinators and teachers (who have undergone training and receive pedagogical guidance from Tafnit Program – Rashi Foundation pedagogical instructors), under the leadership of the principals, of the participating schools based on the premise the every child is able to succeed. In the framework of the program, the students study during and after school hours and during some vacations in designated classes where the Tafnit Program's accelerated learning principles are adopted. The program operates in cooperation with the Ministry of Education's district supervision, its Shacha"r (Education and Welfare Services) Branch and the heads of the education departments in the localities.
- **Students in the program** – Some 2000 9th - 12th graders in 57 classes in 20 state, state-religious, Bedouin and Druze schools (2008/9) in 10 localities.
- **Graduates** – Over 800 12th graders have graduated the program (including 2008/9 graduates).

Background of 2008/9 12th grade graduates of the program - to whom the report relates

- **Schools** – Students who completed 12th grade in 2008/9 studied in the Tafnit "Start" Program in 12 comprehensive high schools and boarding schools under state, state-religious, Bedouin and settlement school supervision in the Southern, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa districts in 6 localities in Israel's periphery.
- **Students** – 405 students completed their 12th grade studies in the program, in the aforementioned 12 schools, in 2008/9.
- **Socio-economic rating**³ – The average socio-economic rating of the 12 schools is 6.8.

¹ Some of the figures are not final (such as the matriculation figures presented here that do not include Winter 2009/10 exams taken by 2008/9 graduates). The figures in this summary are subject to the comments and footnotes that appear in the complete report.

² Sanctioned by the Ministry of Education based on nationally standardized exams given and supervised by the Ministry. To attain a matriculation certificate (Teudat Bagrut) at the end of high school, one must pass matriculation exams in a number of required subjects and elective subjects that total 21 "study units". Study units are the difficulty level given to each subject exam ranging from 1-5 (5 being the hardest). Usually most subjects are tested at the 1-3 study unit level. One elective subject must be at the 5 study unit level. Most matriculation exams are taken during 11th and 12th grades. Passing grade for all exams is 55. In Israel, acceptance into elite military units, academic studies, and employment are heavily influenced by receipt of a Matriculation certificate. For those high school graduates who intend to undertake academic degree studies at an Israeli college, a matriculation degree suffices as a minimum requirement but for those who intend to study at universities the minimum requirement for acceptance includes full matriculation that includes at least 4 study units of English.

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 of 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).

- Summary -

A. Scholastic achievements of the 2008/9 12th graders in 9th graders prior to joining the program

1. Average number of fail grades per student – 6.9.
2. Average grade – 51.9.
3. Rate of students with 7 fail grades or more among those who began the program in 10th grade – 51.9%.

B. The main results at the end of the program (end of 12th grade) of the program's 2008/9 12th grade graduates.

B.1. Program results - student level – about 63.1% received a matriculation certificate.

1. 57.6% received a matriculation certificate in relation to the number who joined in 10th grade.
2. 100.0% of the students who achieved matriculation have certificates which allow acceptance to academic studies.
3. 40.8% of the students who achieved matriculation have certificates which allow acceptance to university.
4. 93.7% of the students who began learning in the program studied until the end of 12th grade in a school where the program is operated or in another high school.
5. There is a significant drop in behavior problems of the program's students, from a rating of 2.8 to 1.9 (on a scale of 1-5).
6. There is a significant increase in aspirations and academic perception for the future, from a rating of 2.8 to 3.9 (on a scale of 1-5).
7. There is a significant rise in the internal control focus, from a rating of 3.6 to 4.3 (on a scale of 1-5).

B.2. The program's contribution to the matriculation rate in the participating schools – 22.2% of all students who received matriculation certificates in these schools.

1. 22.2% of all students who received matriculation certificates in 2008/9 in the participating schools are 12th grade graduates of the Tafnit "Start" Program.
2. 15.3% 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.

B.3. The matriculation rate in participating schools increased by 14.8%.

1. The percentage of students receiving matriculation certificates in the participating schools is 69% and increased by 14.8% in relation to the matriculation rate prior to the program (54.2%).
2. In 30% of the schools, the matriculation rate increased by over 30% in relation to the rate prior to the program.
3. In 2008/9, the matriculation eligibility in Israel dropped by 11.2% from 69.0% to 57.8%.

B.4. The matriculation eligibility rate in the program's schools is about 10% higher than the rate in Israel.

The matriculation eligibility rate in the program's schools in 2008/9 is 69.0%, 11.2% higher than the matriculation rate in Israel (57.8%).

- And 18.8% higher than the matriculation rate in localities in Israel with a similar socio-economic rating (50.2%).
- And 4.4% higher than the matriculation rate in localities in Israel with a high socio-economic rating (64.6%).

- Summary -

B.5. The matriculation rate among the program's students compared to all the students who received matriculation certificates in localities and districts.

1. *Approx. 7.3% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Beer Sheva are graduates of the program (from 5 Beer Sheva schools).*
2. *Approx. 12.3% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Beit Shemesh are graduates of the program (from 2 Beit Shemesh schools).*
3. *Approx. 4.8% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Bat Yam are graduates of the program (from 2 Bat Yam schools).*
4. *Approx. 3.9% of all students who received matriculation certificates in the Bedouin sector in the Negev graduates of the program (from 1 Bedouin school).*
5. *Approx. 2.1% of all students who received matriculation certificates in the southern district are graduates of the program (from 6 southern district schools).*
6. *Approx. 1.1% of all students who received matriculation certificates in the Jerusalem district are graduates of the program (from 2 Jerusalem district schools).*
7. *Approx. 0.5% of all students who received matriculation certificates in Tel Aviv district are graduates of the program (from 2 Tel Aviv district schools).*

- Summary -

Breakdown of the results:

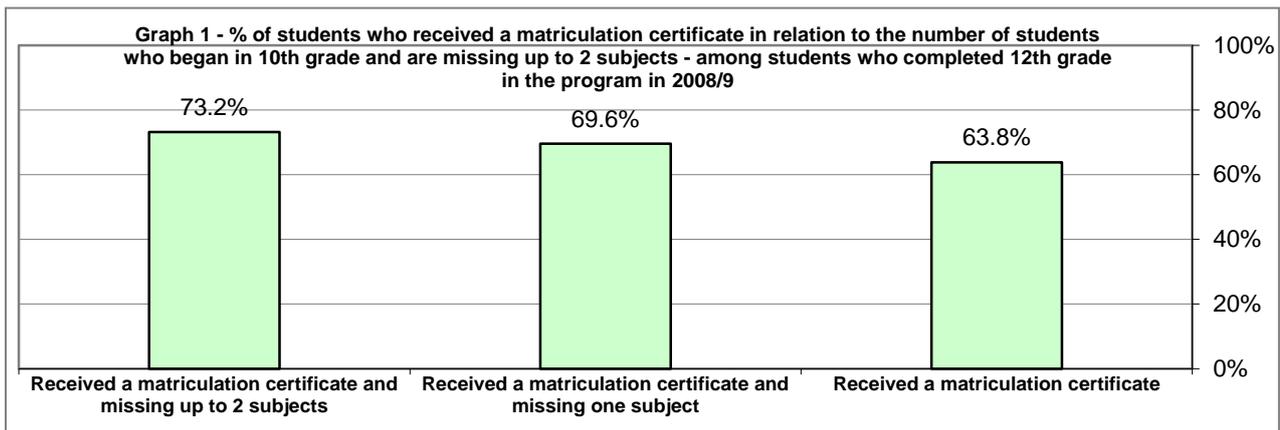
Students who completed 12th grade in 2008/9 -

the main results at the end of the program (12th grade)

A. Results on the program student level.

A.1. Matriculation Certificate Attainment Rate

1. 57.6% of the students who began the program in 10th grade received a matriculation certificate (Graph 1).
2. 62.9% of the students who began the program in 10th grade received a matriculation certificate and are missing one subject to be able to receive a matriculation certificate (Graph 1).
3. 100% of the students who achieved matriculation have certificates which allow acceptance to academic studies.
4. 40.8% of the students who achieved matriculation have certificates which allow acceptance to university.
5. 54.3% of the students who began the program in 10th grade and achieved matriculation had at least 7 fail grades at the end of 9th grade.



A.2. Actual Dropout.

1. 93.7% of the students who began learning in the program completed the 12th grade in a school where the program operated or another high school.
2. 89.5% of the students who began learning in the program completed the 12th grade in a school where the program operated.

A.3. Fulfillment of the student's function

66.1% of the students who began in 10th grade received a matriculation certificate and are missing up to two subjects for eligibility to receive a matriculation certificate (Graph 1).

The findings indicate a marked improvement in fulfillment of the student's function and a substantial reduction in hidden dropout among the program's students.

- Summary -

A.4. Behavior, aspiration for higher education and locus of control

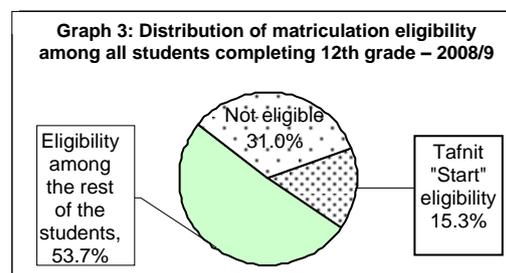
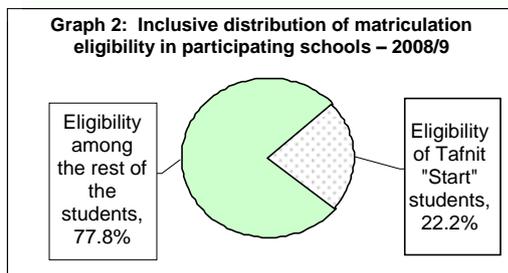
1. There is a significant drop in behavior problems of the program's students, from a rating of 2.8 to 1.9 (on a scale of 1-5).
2. There is a significant increase in aspirations and academic perception for the future, from a rating of 3.6 to 4.3 (on a scale of 1-5).
3. There is a significant rise in the internal locus of control, from a rating of 3.6 to 4.3 (on a scale of 1-5).
4. There is a significant increase in the feeling of belonging of the program's students, from a rating of 4.0 to 4.4 (on a scale of 1-5).
5. There is a significant rise in the feeling of independence of the program's students, from a rating of 3.3 to 4.0 (on a scale of 1-5)

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

22.9% of all students who received matriculation certificates in 2008/9 are among Tafnit -"Start" certificate recipients

B.1. 22.2% of all the students who received matriculation certificates in the program's schools are graduates of the Tafnit "Start" Program (Graph 2).

B.2. 15.3% 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).



The program's students and graduates were either hidden dropouts or on the verge of actual dropout and had no chance of acquiring a matriculation certificate prior to the program

- Summary -

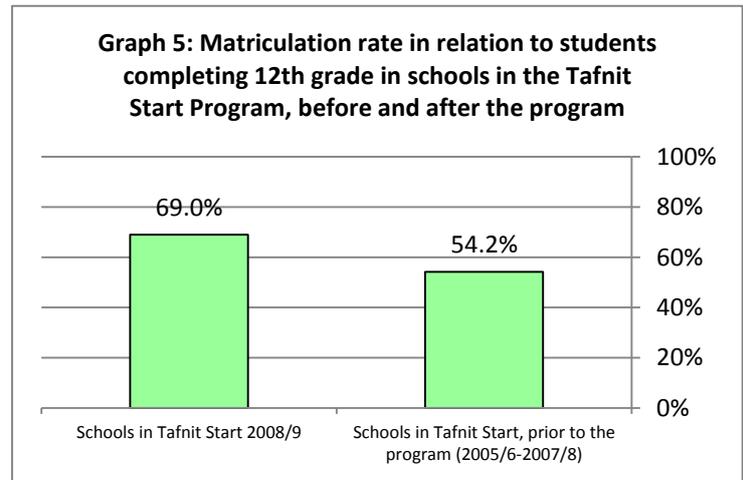
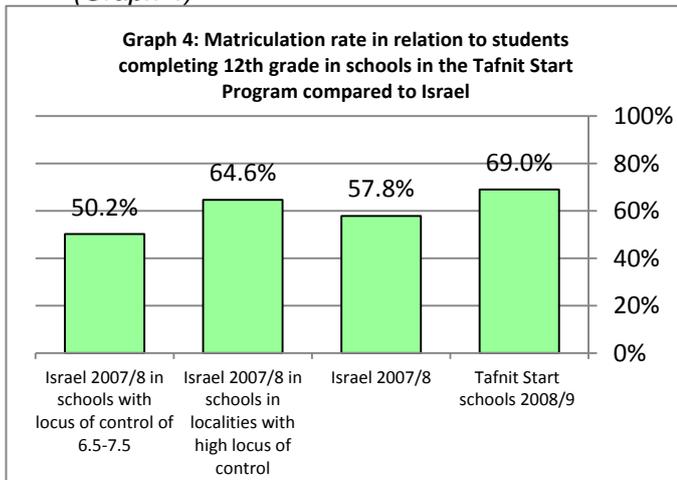
C. An increase of 14.4% in the matriculation attainment rate in the participating schools⁴.

1. The matriculation certificate attainment rate in all the program's schools in 2008/9 is approx. 69.0%.
2. The matriculation certificate attainment rate in the program's schools in 2008/9⁵ is 69.0%, an increase of 14.8% in relation to the matriculation rate prior to the program⁶, from 54.2% (Graph 5).
3. In 30% of the program's schools, the matriculation rate increased by over 30% compared to their matriculation rate prior to the program⁵.

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

is 18.8% higher than the matriculation rate in schools in Israel with a similar socio-economic rating and 4.4% higher than the matriculation rate in schools in Israel in localities with a high socio-economic rating.

1. The matriculation eligibility rate in the Tafnit "Start" Program schools in 2008/9 is 69.0% and 11.2% higher than the average in Israel at the same year (Graph 4).
2. The matriculation rate in schools in the Tafnit "Start" Program in 2008/9 is 18.8% higher than the average matriculation rate in schools in Israel⁶ in localities with a socio-economic rating of 6.5-7.5 (schools similar in socio-economic rating to those in the Tafnit "Start" Program) (Graph 4).
3. The matriculation eligibility rate in schools in the Tafnit "Start" Program in 2008/9 is 4.4% higher than the average matriculation rate in schools in Israel in localities with a high socio-economic rating in 2007/8⁶ (Graph 4)



⁴ The matriculation certificate attainment rate of the program's graduates and their relative portion among the students who received matriculation certificates are shown above and detailed later in the report. Other programs which operated in schools (which perhaps operated) did not operate with the program's student population (except for a small percentage who participated in programs like Liba"m). The contribution of other programs to eligibility in the schools is not measured in this report.

⁵ Excluding 2 schools, which were selective prior to the program.

⁶ In the previous age group for the end of the age group in which the first cycle of students completed 12th grade in the program (2005/6, 2006/7 or 2007/8).

E. Contribution of the Tafnit "Start" Program to the matriculation certificate attainment rate in localities and districts:

1. Some **7.3%** of all students who received matriculation certificates in Beer Sheva are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (from 5 Beer Sheva schools).
2. Some **11.6%** of all students who received matriculation certificates in Beit Shemesh are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (from 2 Beit Shemesh schools).
3. Some **5.0%** of all students who received matriculation certificates in Bat Yam are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (from 2 Bat Yam schools).
4. Some **3.6%** of all students who received matriculation certificates in the Bedouin sector in the Negev are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (from 1 Bedouin school).
5. Some **2.1%** of all students who received matriculation certificates in the southern district are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (from 6 southern district schools).
6. Some **1.1%** of all students who received matriculation certificates in the Jerusalem district are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (from 2 Jerusalem district schools).
7. Some **0.5%** of all students who received matriculation certificates in Tel Aviv district are Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (from 2 Tel Aviv district schools).

Summary -

Appendix to the summary

Appendix no. 1.

Ben Gurion University's appraisal (July, 2008),

Tafnit "Start" Program achievements compared to the control group (summary of the main findings).

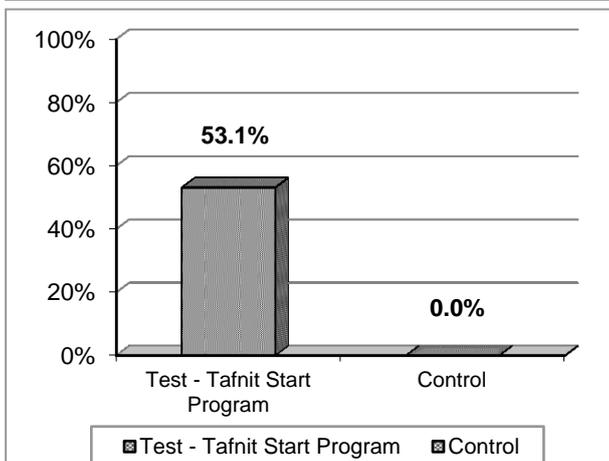
Prior to the process, at the end of 9th grade – the test group compared to the control group.

Criterion	Test group-Tafnit "Start"	Control group
A. Average fail grades per student at the end of 9 th grade	8.2	8.2
B. Average grades – end of 9 th grade	44	45
C. Rate of students with 7 fail grades and above – end of 9 th grade	73.9%	71.4%

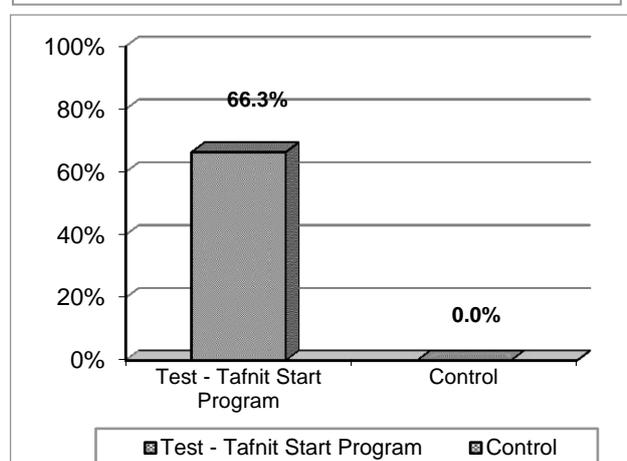
After three years, at the end of 12th grade – the test group compared to the control group.

Criterion	Test group-Tafnit "Start"	Control group
A. Students who received a matriculation certificate (in relation to students who began in 10 th grade)	53.1%	0.0%
B. Students who received a matriculation certificate and missing one subject for matriculation certificate eligibility	66.3%	0.0%
C. Distribution of students who received a matriculation certificates	66.7% of the students who received matriculation certificates had 7 fail grades and above in 9 th grade	0.0%
D. Actual dropout (students completing 12 th grade in relation to students beginning in 10 th grade)	6.7%	11.1%

**Diagram no. 1 –
Matriculation certificate attainment rate in relation to students beginning in 10th grade – the test group compared to the control group.**



**Diagram no. 2 –
Rate of students who received matriculation certificates and missing one subject for matriculation certificate eligibility – the test group**



Appendix no. 2.

The Aharai NGO findings (July, 2008)

IDF enlistment rate among Tafnit "Start" Program graduates (the main findings)

- 95% of all the program's graduate boys have enlisted and/or will complete their IDF enlistment process in August 2008, compared to 74% of all boys in Israel liable for military service who enlist in the IDF.
- 55.4% of all the boys who have enlisted serve in combat units (fighters).
- 78.1% of all the program's graduate girls have enlisted in the IDF or National Service (*Sherut Leumi*) and/or will complete the enlistment process and enlist by August 2008, compared to 60% of all the girls in Israel liable for military service who enlist in the IDF.
- 18.8% of the girls who have enlisted serve as fighters in combat units.