



# YEDA-Leo Baeck Update

1. This year we opened the second YEDA school in our network in Petach Tikvah's Dado-Yoseftal neighborhood. We took over a failing school that was facing closure due to low enrollment. We have implemented the YEDA model in grades 1 and 2, and will adapt the YEDA model to one additional grade per year. Currently 200 children are enrolled in the school and we expect that most families will return to the school after we prove our success.

Petach Tikvah is Houston's P2K sister-city and the Houston Federation has committed to helping us transform YEDA-Petach Tikvah into a successful and thriving school. We have also developed a five-year work plan with the Petach Tikvah municipality for the physical development of the school and the multi-year implementation of the YEDA model to all grades.



2. There are currently 350 children studying in YEDA schools: 150 at YEDA-Kiryat Bialik (grades 1-3) and 200 at YEDA-Petach Tikvah (grades 1-6).

3. We provide every YEDA student with a hot lunch. For some of our students, this is their only hot meal of the day.



4. With the help of our supporters, we were able to add a second teacher in every classroom this year from 10:00 a.m. until the end of the school day. With two teachers in each classroom, we now can implement small group teaching methods and individualized instruction, provide more individualized attention to our students, and attend more to their emotional needs. It has also facilitated more frequent and productive communication with parents.

5. One World, the international arm of KIPP, has appointed Mr. Josh Zoia as the regional manager of One World in Israel. Mr. Zoia is an experienced KIPP director who has served as a teacher, principal and superintendent of KIPP schools in New York City. Mr. Zoia comes to Israel every month for a week and works closely with our principals and teachers in implementing KIPP's innovative pedagogy and culture in our YEDA schools.



6. We have initiated the process of building a YEDA Network Headquarters in Israel. We are currently reviewing candidates for the position of Director of Pedagogy. The person we select will be sent to the U.S. to study and train at Relay College (the training college for teachers and administrators of the New York charter networks). In addition, Mr. Zoia will also provide our new Director of Pedagogy with personal training and guidance.

7. We are expanding and improving upon our enrichment curriculum. In addition to programs in music, art and sports, our students now participate in a program that develops creative and critical thinking skills entitled "SEISEI". Through an experiential process of inquiry and discovery, YEDA students learn to solve problems, nurture their ideas, and develop initiative and resourcefulness.



We have also established a very productive small farm-garden that is cared for by the children themselves. In this garden, the children grow vegetables and houseplants. Our garden area also contains a greenhouse and an outdoor pavilion / classroom courtesy of The Jewish National Fund.

Our school is a musical one thanks to a donation from an Israeli Foundation. Through a local music conservatory, new immigrant musicians from the Former Soviet Union provide our students with professional instruction on a number of different musical instruments.



8. Our students also benefit from visits by the “Ofanim” science bus, a mobile classroom and laboratory in which students have additional instruction in the sciences and gain computer skills.

9. One of our main goals is for YEDA to be recognized as a national pilot for closing educational gaps in Israel’s periphery. To this end, we have initiated dialogue with the Ministry of Education which is now interested in having us open YEDA schools in disadvantaged communities throughout the country.



10. At present, eight municipalities and local authorities have requested that we open YEDA schools in their communities. Four of these communities are in the Arab, Bedouin and Druze sectors:

- Be'er Sheva, Israel’s largest city in the Negev desert of southern Israel.
- Kiryat Malachi, a city near Ashkelon in Israel's Southern District.
- Lod, a mixed Jewish-Arab city southeast of Tel Aviv in the Israel’s Central District.
- Merom Hagalil Regional Council, a regional council in the northern Galilee that provides various municipal services for various villages within its territory including moshavim, a kibbutz, and other types of settlements.
- Shefaram, an Arab city in Israel’s Northern District, populated by Muslims, Christians and Druze.
- Shibli–Umm al-Ghanam (Shibli), a Bedouin village at the base of Mount Tabor Mount in Israel's North District.
- Tamra, an Arab city near Shefaram in the lower Galilee, in Israel’s Northern District that is populated by Muslim and Christian Arabs
- Horfish, a small Druze town in the Northern Galilee.

11. Attached to this document is the Executive Summary of the University of Haifa Faculty of Education report on the YEDA-Kiryat Bialik School for the 2014-2015 academic year.



*Eran Dubovi*  
YEDA-Leo Baeck Israel CEO  
[leobaeckhaifa.org/yeda/](http://leobaeckhaifa.org/yeda/)

*Itai Karin*  
YEDA-Kiryat Bialik School leader

*Meirav Bass-Peleg*  
YEDA-Petach Tikvah School Leader