

**Hebrew in Jewish Day Schools**

**Prepared for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**

*Survey of Teachers*

Draft Instrument as of 3/15/2023

Block I: Information about school and Teacher

*First, we want to know about your role at [school name]*

1. **How long have you worked in your current school?** *[dropdown 0 to 15+]*
2. **What is your role? (Check all that apply)**
3. Classroom teacher
4. Administrator
5. Teaching Assistant
6. Resource Teacher
7. Other\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. *[If Q2 = a]* **In total, how long have you been a teacher (of any subject)?** *[dropdown 0 to 15+]*
9. **With which grade(s) do you work? (Check all that apply)**
10. PreK – Kindergarten  *[“Junior or Senior Kindergarten” if Bialik]*
11. Elementary (Grades 1-5)
12. Middle School (Grades 6-8) *[“Senior Division” if Bialik]*
13. *[If Q2=a]* **What is the highest grade you teach?** *[dropdown Pre-K to 8]*
14. *[If Q2=a]* **What subjects do you teach? (Check all that apply)**
    1. Hebrew language
    2. Religious studies (*Limudei Kodesh*) *[Other Jewish studies in Hebrew if Bialik]*
    3. Other Jewish studies (e.g., Jewish History) *[Other Jewish studies in English if Bialik]*
    4. General studies
    5. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Block II: Importance of Learning Hebrew

*Next, we now want to know about how your school teaches Hebrew and about what you feel* ***your school’s priorities are*** *regarding Hebrew language instruction. When answering questions about “children in your school,” please think about the highest grade you serve and concentrate on the average child in this grade.*

1. **Some Jewish day schools emphasize teaching Modern Hebrew (e.g., speaking and understanding conversational Hebrew), others emphasize Classical** *[“Biblical” if Bialik]* **Hebrew (e.g., Hebrew for prayer or text study).**

**Where on this continuum would you place the school where you work?**

School emphasizes Classical Hebrew

School emphasizes Modern Hebrew

1. **In general, how important do you feel Hebrew education is in your school?**
   1. Not at all important
   2. A little bit important
   3. Somewhat important
   4. Important
   5. Very important
2. **How important is it, in your school, for children to learn Modern Hebrew (speaking and understanding conversational Hebrew)?** *[Required]*
   1. Not at all important
   2. A little bit important
   3. Somewhat important
   4. Important
   5. Very important
3. **How important is it, in your school, for children to learn Classical Hebrew (Hebrew for prayer or text study)?** *[Required]*
4. Not at all important
5. A little bit important
6. Somewhat important
7. Important
8. Very important
9. *[If Q9≠not important at all]* **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

**In our school, we feel it is important to learn Modern Hebrew because…** *[Randomized]*

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Somewhat Agree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| It connects them to Jews around the world | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It forms a connection with Israel | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It is a unique skill to have | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It enables them to communicate with Hebrew speakers | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It is a part of being Jewish | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It maintains the Jewish people’s language | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It allows them to understand Israeli music, books, and TV | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| Learning an additional language contributes to their cognitive development | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It makes them feel a part of the group in situations where people sprinkle Hebrew into English | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It will help them when they visit Israel | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It will prepare them to make *Aliyah* (move to Israel) if they want to. | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |

1. *[If Q10≠not important at all]* **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

**In our school, we feel it is important to learn Classical Hebrew because…** *[Randomized]*

|  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Somewhat Disagree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Somewhat Agree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| It helps them recognize Hebrew prayer as a part of Jewish heritage | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It makes them feel comfortable when they attend a service in Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It helps with performing the mitzvah of learning Torah | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It helps them understand the meaning or prayers | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It deepens their experience of studying Jewish text | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It makes them feel like part of our synagogue community | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It enables them to understand Jewish texts in their original language | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It helps them celebrate Jewish holidays (reading Haggadah, making kiddush) | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| It strengthens their appreciation of Jewish culture and tradition | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |

*Next, we would like to know* ***about your personal opinions*** *regarding Hebrew education at your school.*

1. **In general, how important you think Hebrew education *should be* in your school.** 
   1. Not at all important
   2. A little bit important
   3. Somewhat important
   4. Important
   5. Very important
2. **How important do you think it is for children to learn Modern Hebrew at your school?**
3. Not at all important
4. A little bit important
5. Somewhat important
6. Important
7. Very important
8. **How important do you think it is for children to learn Classical Hebrew at your school?**
9. Not at all important
10. A little bit important
11. Somewhat important
12. Important
13. Very important

*[if Q2≠a AND Q6≠a, b, or c, skip to Block IV]*

Block III: Current Skills and expectations   
(questions for HEBREW/Jewish studies TEACHERS)

*The following questions refer to students’ skills and attitude about their Hebrew education. Please consider the average child in the highest grade you teach. We also want to know the expectations you have for children as they relate to the Hebrew language*

1. **How would you rate the average child’s level of Hebrew proficiency from very low (1) to very high/fluent (5)?**

|  | **1**  Very low | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5**  Very high/ fluent | Unsure/ Does not apply |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| Listening in Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| Speaking Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| Writing in Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |

1. **How do you think the average child feels about learning Modern Hebrew at school?**
   1. Hates it
   2. Dislikes it
   3. It’s okay
   4. Likes it
   5. Loves it
   6. Unsure/Does not apply
2. **How do you think the average child feels about learning Classical Hebrew at school?**
   1. Hates it
   2. Dislikes it
   3. It’s okay
   4. Likes it
   5. Loves it
   6. Unsure/Does not apply
3. **Compared to other subjects, how is the average child in your school doing in Hebrew?**
4. Much worse
5. Worse
6. About the same
7. Better
8. Much better
9. **What would you expect the average child’s Hebrew proficiency to be after they graduate from your school?**

|  | **1**  Very low | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5**  Very high/ fluent | Unsure/ Does not apply |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reading Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| Listening in Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| Speaking Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |
| Writing in Hebrew | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 | 🗖 |

Block V: Satisfaction and Obstacles (for all school personnel)

*We’d like to know your satisfaction with the Hebrew instruction at your school*

1. **How satisfied are you with Modern Hebrew education at your school?** *[Required]*
2. Not at all satisfied
3. A little bit satisfied
4. Somewhat satisfied
5. Satisfied
6. Very satisfied
7. **Please explain your answer:** *[open-ended]*
8. **How satisfied are you with Classical Hebrew education at your school?** *[Required]*
   1. Not at all satisfied
   2. A little bit satisfied
   3. Somewhat satisfied
   4. Satisfied
   5. Very satisfied
9. **Please explain your answer:** *[open-ended]*
10. **What resources would be most beneficial to improve the teaching of Hebrew in your school? :** *[open-ended]*

Block VI: Background information

1. **What is the highest academic degree that you hold?**
2. High school graduation certificate
3. BA/BSc
4. MA/MSc
5. PhD
6. **In what subject area is your highest academic degree?**
7. Social studies
8. Jewish studies
9. History or some other Humanities subject
10. Education
11. Other \_\_\_\_\_\_
12. **What kind of teaching certification do you have? (Check all that apply)**
13. I don’t currently have any certification
14. BEd
15. M.Ed
16. Certification from a Jewish accrediting body
17. Certification that is recognized by the province
18. Certification or degree in teaching Hebrew as an additional language
19. Certification or degree in language instruction
20. I am in the process of attaining certification

1. **Are you Israeli?**
2. Yes
3. No
4. **On a scale of 1 (very low) to 5 (fluent), what is your proficiency with speaking Hebrew?**
5. **On a scale of 1 (very low) to 5 (fluent), what is your proficiency with reading Hebrew?**
6. **What is your gender** *[Open-ended]*

Thank You for Completing the Survey!