




VOTE SMART ISRAEL | EDUCATION

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Expenditure per primary school student in Israel was 24% lower than the OECD average; post-primary school spending was 62% lower (in 2010)

 Between 2000 and 2014, the Ministry of Education spent an average of only 96% of its budget allocation, translating to hundreds of millions of shekels each year that remain unutilized. **In 2012, the unspent budget reached NIS 1.34 billion.**

 **Primary school classes are more overcrowded in Israel than in 26 out of 29 other OECD countries.** Lower secondary school overcrowding placed Israel 22nd out of 26 countries.*

 There are wide gaps between students in the Israeli education system:




- Achievement gaps between students in core curriculum subjects – even excluding the Haredim (ultra-Orthodox Jews) who do not learn these subjects and do not participate in the exams – are consistently among the largest in developed countries.
- Formal education among Haredim is declining: **The share of 35-54-year-old Haredi men with only a primary school education rose from 31% to 47% in less than a decade.** At the same time, the rate of those completing post-primary education in this group fell from 26% to 12%.

 In the past decades, investment in universities has seriously declined:


- **Per student public expenditure on higher education declined from NIS 82,400 in 1979 to NIS 26,500 in 2011** (in 2010 prices).
- Between 1973 and 2011, the number of students in research universities rose by 157%, while the number of senior faculty rose by only 9%.


* Data taken from *Education at a Glance* (OECD, 2014)

Key questions for policymakers:

-  What steps should be taken to narrow the gaps between students in the education system?
-  What position should be taken regarding core curriculum studies in the Haredi schools?
-  How can the high level of Israel's research universities be protected?

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For much more on this topic, see the following Taub Center publications:

- ✓ **Trends in the Development of the Education System** (Nachum Blass, *State of the Nation Report 2014*)
- ✓ **The Ministry of Education's Budget 2000-2014: Issues and Problems** (Nachum Blass and Yulia Cogan)
- ✓ **Education and Employment in the Haredi Sector** (Eitan Regev, *State of the Nation Report 2013*)
- ✓ **Update on the State of Israel's Universities and Its Researchers** (Dan Ben-David, *State of the Nation Report 2013*)
- ✓ **A Picture of the Nation 2014** (Dan Ben-David)


The Taub Center is an independent, nonpartisan, socioeconomic research institute based in Jerusalem. The Center conducts quality, impartial research on socioeconomic conditions in Israel, and develops innovative, equitable and practical options for macro public policies that advance the well-being of Israelis. The Center strives to influence public policy through direct communications with policy makers and by enriching the public debate that accompanies the decision making process.

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