

# DIRASAT

## The Arab Center for Law and Policy

دراسات: المركز العربي للحقوق والسياسات

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<b>Disparities in Education<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Jewish population</b>	<b>Arab population</b>
Rate of adults who have completed 16 or more years of schooling <sup>2</sup>	19.6%	8%
Rate of kindergarten enrollment at age 2 <sup>3</sup>	46.2%	10.3%
Rate of kindergarten enrollment at age 3 <sup>4</sup>	79.1%	67.2%
Rate of kindergarten enrollment at age 4 <sup>5</sup>	90.2%	78.0%
Average class size in elementary education <sup>6</sup>	24.3 students	29.3 students
Rate of special-needs children failing to get appropriate medical services <sup>7</sup>	39%	71%
Drop-out rate, students in 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades <sup>8</sup>	3.4%	6.8%
Drop-out rate, male students in 9 <sup>th</sup> grade <sup>9</sup>	4.4%	15.8%
Rate of qualification for matriculation certificate (of the type needed to receive university admission or commensurate employment) <sup>10</sup>	46.4%	29.6%
Average score (approximate) on the Psychometric Exam, the standardized exam that is substantially decisive in university admission <sup>11</sup>	570 out of 800	460 out of 800
Rate of rejected applicants for first-year university studies towards a first degree <sup>12</sup>	19.6%	43.6%
Rate of people aged 20-29 currently in university studies <sup>13</sup>	9.5%	3.5%

<sup>1</sup> Prepared in June 2008 by Dr. Yousef Jabareen and Zeke Reich. Note that wherever possible, this data is taken from official statistics from the Israeli government. (In some cases, NGOs using different assumptions or methods might report wider disparities.)

<sup>2</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Table 8.6.

<sup>4</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Table 8.6.

<sup>5</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Table 8.6.

<sup>6</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2006.

<sup>7</sup> The State Comptroller Report 2002 52 (B) at 558 (Hebrew).

<sup>8</sup> Rates for 2005-06 to 2006-07. Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Tables 8.22, 8.23.

<sup>9</sup> Rates for 2005-06 to 2006-07. Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Tables 8.22, 8.23.

<sup>10</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2006.

<sup>11</sup> Research conducted by Dirasat, 2008.

<sup>12</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Table 8.46.

<sup>13</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Table 8.48.

## **Disparities in Education (continued)**

### **Curriculum Issues<sup>14</sup>**

- While Arab schools have their own curriculum, it is designed and supervised by the Ministry of Education, where almost no Arab educators or administrators have decision-making powers. By contrast, state religious schools established only for religious Jewish students maintain autonomous control over their curricula.
- Students in Arab state-run schools receive little instruction, if any, in Palestinian and Arab history, geography, literature, culture, and traditions and spend more time learning the Old Testament and other Jewish texts than they do on studying their own religious texts.

### **Discrimination in Special Economic Assistance**

- The Ministry of Education gives special economic assistance to communities that it has designated as “national priorities in education.” Despite the low socio-economic status of most Arab communities, of the 500 communities given this designation only 4 were Arab.<sup>15</sup>
- In 2006 the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that this situation was discriminatory and illegal, but as of June 2008 the ruling still has not been implemented.<sup>16</sup>

### **Representation in University Faculty<sup>17</sup>**

- Of 4,012 tenured professors in Israeli universities, only 38 are Arab (34 men, 4 women).

### **Composition of University Student Population<sup>18</sup>**

- Of all university students working towards a first degree (similar to a B.A), 86.1% are Jews and 10.6% are Arabs.
- Of all university students working towards a second degree (similar to an M.A.), 92.2% are Jews and 5.8% are Arabs.
- Of all university students working towards a third degree, 94.5% are Jews and 3.3% are Arabs.

<sup>14</sup> Adalah Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel. (2003). *Education rights—Palestinian citizens of Israel* (Report). Shafa’amr, Israel

<sup>15</sup> See Abu-Asbah, Khaled (2004). “The Arab Education System in Israel,” in Hasson, Shlomo and Abu-Asbah, Khaled (editors), *Jews and Arabs in Israel Facing a Changing Reality: Dilemmas, Trends, Scenarios and Recommendations*. Jerusalem: Floersheimer Institute for Policy Studies, 81-97.

<sup>16</sup> H.C. 2773/98 and H.C. 11163/03, The High Follow-up Committee for the Arab Citizens in Israel, et. al. v. the Prime Minister of Israel. See “Exclusion of Arab Towns from the National Priority List (NPL)” at <http://www.adalah.org/eng/legaladvocacycultural.php>.

<sup>17</sup> Israel Blechman, M.A. Thesis (2008) at Tel Aviv University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, p. 40 (Hebrew). On file with Dirasat office.

<sup>18</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2007, Table 8.53.

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