Scholarships Program for Ethiopian Students
At Leo Baeck Elementary School

Leo Baeck Education Center

Founded in 1938, the Leo Baeck Education Center is one of Israel's leading educational institutions and the country's largest center for Liberal Judaism. Serving approximately 2,400 students annually from nursery through 12th grade, including gifted learners and students on the autism spectrum, our campus brings together Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Druze, and Bahá'í communities. Guided by humanistic principles and Progressive Judaism, we actively cultivate *Tikkun Olam* to foster a shared, equitable Israeli society.

The Need

Many Ethiopian-Israeli families continue to face systemic barriers that limit their children's opportunities to thrive. These include poverty, high unemployment, language challenges, and ongoing social exclusion. In addition, many children of Ethiopian origin are still too often directed towards state-religious schools, limiting their access to diverse educational environments and the opportunities they provide.

For Ethiopian-Israeli children, access to a respectful, empowering learning environment can be life-changing. It fosters a sense of belonging, broadens opportunities, and strengthens the ties between diverse communities across Israeli society.

Our Response



Out of our belief that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background, we established the *Scholarships Program for Ethiopian Students*.

The program enables children from disadvantaged Ethiopian-Israeli families to attend Leo Baeck Elementary School, where they benefit from an outstanding education within a warm, inclusive, and values-driven community.

Leo Baeck is a community of communities. Our academic and social initiatives are closely interconnected, creating meaningful impact not only for our students but also for their families and the wider Haifa community. While the Scholarships Program provides essential financial support, it also serves as a bridge, building trust with families, encouraging parental involvement, and strengthening long-term educational partnerships.

While families are actively engaged in their children's education and maintain close partnerships with the school, they are unable to meet the full cost of tuition and the wide range of educational services Leo Baeck provides.

In the 2026-2027 academic year, 7 students will receive scholarships covering tuition, meals, textbooks, school uniforms, personal tutoring, counselling, and enrichment activities.

With the right support, students gain confidence, participate actively in school life, strengthen their academic performance, and develop meaningful social connections. Just as importantly, they begin to see themselves as capable, valued, and empowered members of both the school community and wider Israeli society.

Project Goals

- Provide full scholarships for Ethiopian-Israeli students from families experiencing financial hardship.
- Create a safe, inclusive environment where every child feels valued, supported, and able to flourish.
- Equip students with the academic, emotional, and social skills needed for long-term success.
- Foster resilience, responsibility, leadership, mutual respect, and self-confidence.

Expected Impact



In the short term, the program will directly benefit 7 students by providing access to an outstanding education together with personalized academic, emotional, and social support.
Over the longer term, these students will be better equipped to complete their education, pursue higher education or meaningful employment, and become active, contributing members of Israeli society.
The impact extends well beyond the scholarship recipients themselves. By investing in these children, we also strengthen their families, enrich the school community, and contribute to a more inclusive and cohesive society. We estimate that the program positively influences several hundred people each year.

Annual Timeline

June-July | Student Identification

School staff, parents, social workers, and community partners identify eligible Ethiopian-Israeli students based on financial need, family circumstances, and educational potential.

August-September | Scholarship Awards

Selected families are informed confidentially, and individual support plans are prepared for the start of the academic year.

September – June | Educational and Social Support

Students receive full scholarships together with ongoing academic, emotional, and social support, including tutoring, mentoring, counselling, and enrichment activities tailored to their individual needs.

January & June | Monitoring and Evaluation

Student progress is reviewed through academic performance, attendance, teacher observations, and family feedback to measure outcomes and inform future programme development.

Join us

The comprehensive academic and emotional support we provide enables our Ethiopian students to grow, thrive, and build resilience. We are deeply committed to nurturing each student's emotional well-being, recognizing that it forms the foundation for academic achievement and personal development.

We warmly invite you to partner with us in transforming the lives of Ethiopian-Israeli children through education. An annual full scholarship enables one student to benefit from an outstanding education together with the academic, emotional, and spiritual support that underpins long-term success.

Your support will help a child flourish, strengthen a family's future, and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable Israeli society.





With Respect and appreciation,

Rabbi Ofek Meir
Headmaster and Managing Director
Leo Baeck Education Center