

2024

IMPACT REPORT



YAFFED
PO Box 160398
Brooklyn, NY 11216

www.yaffed.org

YAFFED's mission is to ensure that Haredi and Hasidic Yeshivas in New York deliver a sound basic education to their students.

Our vision is that Haredi and Hasidic yeshiva students receive the education and skills for long-term personal growth and self-sufficiency, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

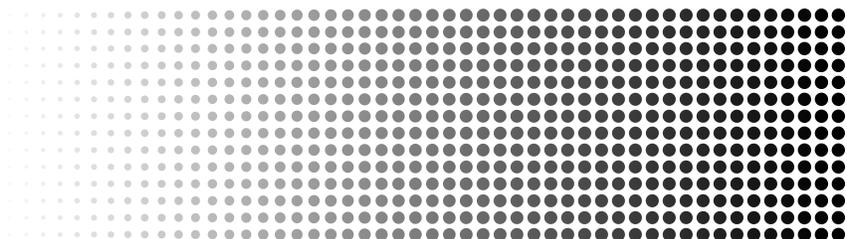
"My children are not learning any English at all in their yeshiva. I worry about their futures. When I attended yeshiva, most of my teachers were public school professionals. Today, none of my kids' teachers are qualified to teach. I'm not the only parent who feels this way....YAFFED is doing important work."

- A Hasidic Yeshiva parent in Rockland County, NY
(anonymously)



YAFFED

YOUNG ADVOCATES FOR FAIR EDUCATION



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

YAFFED's staff and board are grateful for our supporters who have helped us bring our movement for educational equity to where it stands today. As we increase our capacity to create a lasting impact on the lives of tens of thousands of children in Hasidic and Haredi yeshivas in New York, our commitment to improving education for Hasidic and Haredi children remains as strong as ever.

2024 was a year of challenges, as we navigated the waters of our work: advocating for change in a Jewish community beset by tragedy and facing a dramatic uptick in antisemitism, securing sufficient resources in an increasingly challenging fundraising environment, and conducting local and statewide advocacy during a year where elections captured a large share of attention. And yet, we managed to secure significant progress on our issue.

In 2024, we improved our capability to respond to threats, bringing more stakeholders and allies along in this work. As we get closer to a major milestone of the regulations being implemented, YAFFED remains crucial in shaping this historic systemic educational effort. Our role as advocates for a sound, basic education in every yeshiva statewide compels us to remain vigilant toward regulatory policy implementation of sector-wide oversight. We have pivotal legal work ahead of us to ensure compliance between yeshivas and educational authorities.

As we've seen many times over the past two years since the introduction of new regulatory oversight, secretive deal-making by lawmakers eager to capitalize on key voting blocs during election campaigns threatens to jeopardize our hard-earned policy gains. This existential threat demands a high level of vigilance from us, the careful maintenance of relationships with our legislative allies and supporters, ongoing coalition-building, and of course, our grassroots organizing.

Your support of YAFFED sustains and empowers us to fulfill our commitment to improving the education of tens of thousands of children in Hasidic and Haredi yeshivas in New York.



With Gratitude,



Adina Mermelstein Konikoff

YAFFED's Successes in 2024

Legal Action:



We celebrated a major legal victory when the NY State Appellate Division ruled in favor of stronger enforcement against yeshivas that don't comply with education law, a case we filed an amicus briefing to support. We continue to make progress in getting legal standing to represent parents anonymously in complaints against the State.

Advocacy:

In the spring of 2024, we fought off multiple attempts to undo substantial equivalency regulations on education in yeshivas. We activated hundreds of our supporters across the state to reach out to legislative leaders Carl Heastie and Andrea Stewart Cousins to thwart a potential attempt at a secretive deal to roll back substantial equivalency requirements.



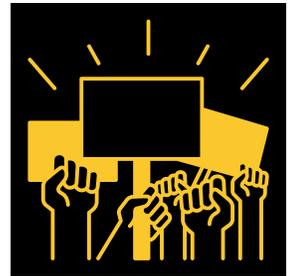
Organizing:



Through our quarterly mail campaigns, and by expanding our 24/7 Yiddish newsline in the spring of 2024, we connected with tens of thousands of parents of yeshiva students and fielded over 5,000 phone calls. We also gathered supporters around New York City by hosting community events like a warm and inspiring Community Shabbat dinner and a lively happy hour, sparking meaningful connections and conversations.

Power Building:

We partnered with NYCLU to strengthen a coalition in support of education justice in East Ramapo and advance advocacy efforts for educational equity statewide. We also convened an innovative research panel at CUNY, catalyzing detailed academic research into various aspects of secular education in Hasidic and Haredi communities.



Awareness:



In May, we hosted a storytelling event at the Nyack Library, where a selection of yeshiva grads shared their firsthand educational experiences. YAFFED was mentioned more than 25 times in the press in 2024, and was covered by media outlets such as Politico, New York Daily News, Haaretz, Jewish Broadcasting Service, and the Albany Times Union.

Looking Ahead to 2025:

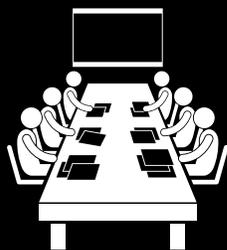
Advocacy



Our top priority is maintaining public policy support for accountability in all schools.

In our outreach to state lawmakers, we're focused on protecting existing regulations that ensure yeshivas provide a sound basic education.

Legal Action



We're developing legal education workshops to build expertise in substantial equivalency law and strengthen our capacity for future oversight-related cases. As we await final determinations from local school districts in the summer of 2025, we'll need to analyze a massive amount of rulings and bring legal action to challenge them whenever necessary.

Community Organizing



We're expanding our advocacy networks to support parents seeking better yeshiva education. We'll continue our outreach efforts and events as we maintain an open door to all stakeholders involved in yeshiva education, fostering greater acceptance of sound basic education in Hasidic and Haredi communities.

How your donation supports YAFFED in 2025:

\$18



Send 18 YAFFED
Newsletters In
Yiddish To Yeshiva
Parents

\$360



Subsidizes
Advocacy Training
For Yeshiva Alumni

\$1,050



Covers the Cost of
1 Day of Rapid
Response Public
Relations

\$5,000



Underwrites Research
On The Economic Impact
Of Improving Secular
Education In Yeshivas