

HEBREW THROUGH MOVEMENT

Responses from the 2019 summer survey of "On-the-Way" and "All In" #OnwardHebrew programs

EVERY "ON-THE-WAY" AND "ALL IN" EDUCATION PROGRAM ADOPTED HTM

- HTM is consistently taught in K-3. Respondents reported 100% usage in 1st and 2nd grades.
- Usage of HTM drops to 67% in fifth grade and to 42% in sixth grade. Only one education program reports using HTM in seventh grade



HTM ENGAGES AND EXCITES STUDENTS

Survey respondents report that students:

- "... are much more enthusiastic about Hebrew!"
- "... love Hebrew, feel successful. [There is a sense of joy and fun around the lessons.]"
- "... love it and definitely increase their comfort with Hebrew as a result of participating"
- "... are forming positive connections to the Hebrew language."

TEACHERS NEED SPECIAL SKILLS

- It can be difficult to find teachers with Hebrew language background (as compared to comfort teaching prayers).
- While there is an online seminar to introduce HTM teaching skills, continued professional growth needs attention.
- Teacher turnover can mean a backward step in some locations.



PUSHBACK IS A REPORTED CHALLENGE

- Pushback from current curricular and scheduling assumptions. [Finding 15 minutes of teaching time can be hard.]
- Pushback from non-HTM teachers, parents and clergy. [One respondent said, "There remains a feeling that the kids are not 'really' learning Hebrew because it is not reading based."]
- Pushback from older students. [Unless they are with the "right teacher," students can feel silly responding to HTM commands.]

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- HOW CAN POTENTIAL HTM TEACHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH LOW OR NO HEBREW LANGUAGE BACKGROUND, GAIN ENOUGH HEBREW TO TEACH THIS MODEL?
- WHAT CURRICULAR AND STRUCTURAL DECISIONS MIGHT BETTER ACCOMMODATE 15 MINUTE HTM LESSONS IN FOURTH GRADE AND ABOVE (I.E., WHEN HTM SUPPORTS T'FILLAH HEBREW)?

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