



Gift of Israel is an incentive savings program in which families, congregations, and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island each contribute funds toward an educational program in Israel.

Families participating in the Gift of Israel program contribute a minimum of \$150 per student annually to an account at Signature Bank in New York. That contribution is increased with a \$50 contribution from participating synagogues. The family and synagogue contribution is matched with a \$200 contribution from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Families who do not belong to one of the participating synagogues contribute an additional \$50 each year (\$200 total). Students enrolled in the program from grade 3 through grade 10 will accumulate \$3,200 to put towards an educational Israel experience.

There are two enrollment plans:

- **Standard Savings Plan:** For students in grades 3–8
- **Catch-up Savings Plan:** An option for students in grades 4–6

Families in the Catch-up Savings Plan “make up” the family and synagogue contributions from grade three; JFRI matches accordingly (see charts at right). After the first year, students continue in Standard Savings Plan through completion of 10th grade. At this time, community funds (synagogue or JFRI) are no

longer contributed; however, families may continue to make deposits into their child's personal account. **Only students who are enrolled in an approved Jewish program qualify for the annual matching funds.**

### **Standard Savings Plan** For students in grades 3–8

<b>STUDENT'S YEAR IN PROGRAM</b>	<b>FAMILY CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>FEDERATION CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Third Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$400
Fourth Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$800
Fifth Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$1,200
Sixth Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$1,600
Seventh Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$2,000
Eighth Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$2,400
Ninth Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$2,800
Tenth Grade	\$150	\$50	\$200	\$3,200

### **Catch-up Savings Plan\*** An option for students in grades 4–6

<b>GRADE IN WHICH STUDENT BEGINS PROGRAM</b>	<b>FAMILY CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>FEDERATION CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Fourth Grade	\$350	\$50	\$400	\$800
Fifth Grade	\$550	\$50	\$600	\$1,200
Sixth Grade	\$750	\$50	\$800	\$1,600

*\* After initial catch-up year, the student continues in the Standard Savings Plan. If enrolled through 10th grade, the student will accumulate \$3,200 towards an Israel experience.*

Families and friends are encouraged to deposit additional funds on behalf of Gift of Israel participants to mark special occasions, such as birthdays, becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah or as a Hanukkah gift. Additional contributions are not matched.

## **Participating Synagogues**

Gift of Israel's participating synagogues have agreed to contribute \$50 annually for each year of active enrollment of each student member of its congregation. If, for any reason, the participating synagogue defaults on its payment, the family is required to make up the additional \$50. The family will be notified if this occurs. Contact the Bureau of Jewish Education, or see the back of this page, to find out whether or not your family belongs to a Gift of Israel participating synagogue.

## **Transfer**

If a Rhode Island Gift of Israel participant moves to another Gift of Israel community the student may transfer to that program. If the new community does not have a similar program, the family can continue to deposit family funds to the student's account at Signature Bank. JFRI will hold the community funds in the student's name and send it to the Israel program or family when a student requests disbursement for Israel travel. Additional federation and synagogue funds will no longer be contributed once a family leaves the community.

## **Inactive Status**

A student will be placed on inactive status if they are not enrolled in an approved Jewish education program, or annual payment from the family is not received. A student may resume active participation by meeting both requirements.

## **Withdrawal**

A student may withdraw from the program at any time upon written notice to the BJE/RI. The removal of funds from the family account other than for use toward an approved Israel program will constitute withdrawal from the program. Upon withdrawal, the participant forfeits all rights to accumulated community funds.

## **Disbursement of Funds**

Funds may be applied toward an approved Israel program at any time after a student has reached high school, but no later than his/her 26th birthday. BJE/RI's Israel Committee will consider exceptions for special Israel programs on an individual basis.

# **Gift of Israel**

## **Participating Synagogues**

(AS OF DECEMBER 2006)

Congregation Agudas Achim, *Attleboro*

Congregation B'nai Israel, *Woonsocket*

Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, *Providence*

Congregation Ohave Shalom, *Pawtucket*

Temple Am David, *Warwick*

Temple Beth-El, *Providence*

Temple Emanu-El, *Providence*

Temple Habonim, *Barrington*

Temple Sinai, *Cranston*

Temple Torat Yisrael, *Cranston*

Touro Synagogue, *Newport*