

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School qualifies as a National Blue Ribbon School

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School (Hatikvah) in East Brunswick, NJ, qualifies as a High-Performing, award-winning school.



8th-grade Hatikvah students in an inquiry-based science class.

East Brunswick, NJ – September 25, 2025 — Hatikvah International Academy Charter School is proud to announce that it has been recognized as one of New Jersey's nine schools that were nominated and certified for the 2025 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award for *Exemplary High Performance*.

In January 2025, Hatikvah was honored to be named a potential nominee based on strong performance in student achievement, academic growth, and low rates of chronic absenteeism. After being officially nominated by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in February, the school completed its comprehensive application by May. In August, final application details were submitted, including a school photo to be used in national announcements.

Just days before the U.S. Department of Education was set to release its list of awardees, the Department's Office of Communication and Outreach informed state liaisons and nominees of a policy shift: the federal program would now defer recognition of high-performing schools to the state level, emphasizing the critical role states play in nominating and certifying school data.

On September 19, 2025, the NJDOE officially notified Hatikvah that it had been certified as one of the state's nominated Blue Ribbon Schools and announced plans to formally honor the school at an upcoming New Jersey State Board of Education meeting this fall.

Dr. Marcia Grayson, Hatikvah's Executive Director from 2012 to 2025 and the leader during the award qualification period, expressed her pride in the school's collective efforts:

"Hatikvah is a very special school where teamwork and shared leadership ensure our consistently high academic performance. Every stakeholder, from our outstanding teachers and instructional supervisors to our office and maintenance staff, as well as our supportive Board of Trustees, and our parents, works together so that each student receives an exceptional education. It is an honor that the State of New Jersey is recognizing our results this fall."

Amanda Rosenberg, who became the school's Director on August 15, 2025, and previously served as Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, added:

"This honor affirms that the work we do every day is meaningful in the lives of thousands of students, some of whom are already college graduates making their mark in the world."

Board of Trustees President Daniel Gresack emphasized the school's broad appeal and impact:

"I'm proud that our school of 690 students is open to families from across New Jersey. Parents from over 30 different resident school districts choose Hatikvah because they know it provides a strong K-8 foundation that will make a lasting difference in their children's lives."

In addition to excelling in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, Hatikvah students also meet the rigorous expectations of the school's Middle Years International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme and achieve proficiency in Modern Hebrew. Many students leave the school speaking three or more languages, with a number earning the *Global Seal of Biliteracy* in Modern Hebrew by the end of 8th grade. Numerous students have been accepted to both public and private competitive high schools.

Dr. Grayson also highlighted the school's inclusivity and academic strength:

"We're especially proud that our academic excellence includes our students with special needs, who make up nearly 14% of our student body and are fully included in the general education program."

The NJDOE has consistently recognized Hatikvah's excellence, granting multiple charter renewals and expansions in grade levels and student capacity, enabling the school to serve a diverse and growing community.

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