

National Recognition of High School Hebrew Honor Societies sponsored by the Consortium for the Teaching of Hebrew Language and Culture

The [Consortium for the Teaching of Hebrew Language and Culture](#) was established by Brandeis University in 2022. Its mission: to deliver outstanding Hebrew language and cultural instruction to communities worldwide. The Consortium is led by Brandeis University, for decades the intellectual home to Hebrew language learning. The university possesses unique scholarly and research capacities that contribute to the Consortium's ability to shape the field, credential scholar-practitioners, and promote the language.

As part of its mission, the Consortium aims to strengthen high school level Hebrew language learning and promote the study of Hebrew. To support the achievement of this aim, the Consortium will formally recognize high school level Hebrew Honor Societies that demonstrate high standards of excellence through the achievement of specific criteria.

A high school level Hebrew Honor Society (HHS) that seeks **national recognition from the Consortium** shall meet these requirements:

1. Have a high school level modern Hebrew language program that advocates for learning and celebrating modern Hebrew language and culture. (*Schools that currently do not have an in-person Hebrew language program but provide an opportunity for students to earn foreign language credits through a remote, accredited Hebrew language program may be able to meet this requirement.*)
2. Have an HHS that
 - a. inspires and supports students' achievement of academic excellence in Hebrew;
 - b. maintains rigorous standards for student membership (*see suggested standards, below*);
 - c. provides guidance to students seeking to meet these standards;
 - d. participates with other high school HHS' in activities that contribute to learning and celebrating modern Hebrew; and
 - e. has an established student leadership organization to implement all HHS activities (*see suggested HHS student leadership structure, below*).
3. To provide appropriate guidance to the HHS and to students seeking membership in the HHS, have a modern Hebrew language teacher who holds state certification in the teaching of modern Hebrew serve as the faculty sponsor of the school's HHS. (*Schools that do not have an on-site Hebrew teacher able to serve as the HHS faculty sponsor may have a former Hebrew language teacher or other member of the faculty serve as the faculty sponsor who will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.*)

HHS Student Membership Requirements - Each high school must establish student requirements for membership in its HHS that reflect high academic standards and achievement, and should include:

1. Current enrollment in a high school Hebrew language class.
2. A cumulative semester grade point average of B or higher in all Hebrew courses.
3. A demonstrated commitment to conduct oneself in a respectful manner at all times.
4. A demonstrated commitment to follow all of the rules and requirements established by the high school HHS.
5. Active engagement in all projects/activities planned and executed by the HHS.
6. A demonstrated commitment to community service through volunteering, leadership, and other positive contributions. Examples include:
 - a. contributing time to a non-profit organization serving the community;
 - b. fulfilling school community service requirements;
 - c. peer tutoring students in Hebrew;
 - d. attending district-approved external courses that enhance Hebrew language proficiency and cultural understanding.

HHS Student Leadership Organization – each high school HHS must establish an organization of students to implement all HHS activities. Students participating in this organization (which may be referred to as the “leadership committee,” “leadership team,” or “board,” should meet the following requirements:

1. Current enrollment in a high school Hebrew language class.
2. Active participation in their Hebrew classroom.
3. Active engagement in HHS activities.
4. A letter of recommendation from of the school’s Hebrew language teacher(s).

The HHS student leadership organization should include 1-2 chairs or presidents, 2 vice-chairs or vice-presidents, a treasurer and a social media/communications liaison. The HHS faculty sponsor shall provide guidance and counsel to the student leadership organization and may remove from office any student serving in the organization who violates the requirements for membership in the HHS or the requirements for participation in the HHS leadership organization.

Application Process – A high school HHS seeking recognition will complete and submit an application to the Consortium that delineates how it meets the national recognition requirements. Upon receipt of the application, the Consortium will appoint a Review Committee to review the application and verify that all requirements have been met. The Review Committee will notify the HHS faculty sponsor of the results of the review and will issue a letter of national recognition to the high school HHS. The duration of the recognition shall be for four years or when the HHS has a change in faculty sponsor. High school HHS’ that receive national recognition shall be able

to post the recognition letter on its web site or social media site, and shall be able to state that it is “*nationally recognized by the Consortium for the Teaching of Hebrew Language and Culture at Brandeis University.*” To apply for recognition or obtain additional information, please contact admin@hebrewhonorsociety.org.