



April 2011

## Guidelines for Approved Yeshivas (Jewish Day Schools) for support and endorsement by the Central Board and the Yeshiva Scholarship Committee of UMJCA

### Preamble

The UMJCA promotes and supports Jewish Day School education for Mashadi Jewish Community students, by encouraging Yeshiva education and investing in scholarships awarded by the Yeshiva Scholarship Committee.

The UMJCA has made a determination that in order to help preserve the unity, harmony, heritage, religious *hashkafa* (ideology) and traditional values and character of the Mashadi Jewish Community, only the schools that meet the following criteria should be promoted for use by our Community children and supported financially, whether directly, through the awarding of scholarships, or promotion of dinners and other fundraising events.

Schools that do not meet these guidelines will gradually be phased out and no longer be supported or promoted for our community children.

### Guidelines

In accordance with the Community By-Laws of UMJCA, any yeshiva supported and/or promoted by the Mashadi Jewish Community must clearly and unambiguously meet the following criteria:

- The school promotes achievement of excellence in both religious studies, as well as general studies, and the ideal of pursuing higher education.
- The school actively instills love and support for Medinat Israel (the modern State of Israel) and advocates appreciation and respect for its history, for Zionism and the Zionist pioneers who founded the State, and for all those who defend the State, including the soldiers of the Israel Defense Force. (This generally involves celebrating Yom HaAtzmaut, singing HaTikva, displaying Israel Flags in school, participating in the Israel Day Parade, among other learning activities.)
- The school teaches students the ability to communicate in Modern Hebrew.
- The school advocates love and respect for all Jews and encourages active participation in the Jewish Community and meaningful contribution to American society.
- The school respects different *minhagim*, and encourages Mashadi students to learn and follow our own community's traditions and customs and to show respect and appreciation for their parents and ancestors. When a large Sephardi student population is present at the school, the school agrees to organize Sephardi *minyans* and encourages Mashadi students to participate in Sephardi prayer services. The school encourages Mashadi students to consult our own community Rabbis / Religious Council for advice, and not try to supplant them with other rabbis or other traditions.