



SINAI TEMPLE

## **SINAI TEMPLE BAR/BAT MITZVAH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**The following policies are required for children and their families to fulfill in order to establish eligibility and guarantee that he/she may have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony at Sinai Temple:**

1. The child, immediately prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, must complete at least five (5) consecutive years of study in our Sinai Temple Religious School, or be a student at The Lainer School of Sinai Temple enrolled by the 5th grade. Additionally, the family must be a member of Sinai Temple, in good standing, and its account must be current, including all membership fees, pledges, tuition, and any other financial obligations. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah date assignment may not be considered or discussed until these financial obligations are met.
2. If the Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidate does not meet the requirements as outlined in Paragraph “1” but is coming from another school where they have been enrolled and parents wish to have these years of schooling considered towards Sinai’s required five year eligibility policy, a B'nai Mitzvah Eligibility Request Form (“Eligibility Form”) needs to be completed by the child’s parents.
3. The information requested in the Eligibility Form includes:
  - Copy of the child’s transcripts if the child has attended another accredited religious school or Jewish day school.
  - Written proof of family’s past congregational membership if not a member of Sinai Temple over the past three years.
4. If any information provided regarding a child’s enrollment and attendance in an accredited religious school program or of the family’s past synagogue involvement is found to be inaccurate or misleading, Sinai Temple reserves the right to deny the scheduling of a date for Bar/ Bat Mitzvah.
5. The Eligibility Form shall be reviewed by a committee consisting of members of the professional staff, lay committee members, and the President of the Temple and/or his or her designee. The committee may choose to meet with the family and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. In the event a child has not completed the requirements contained in paragraph “1,” the committee may require:
  - The Bar/Bat Mitzvah be delayed,
  - The child may be required to take additional classes,

- The child may be required to obtain a private tutor,
- The child may be requested to complete additional projects and/or additional assignments.

6. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is required to complete his or her religious studies for the balance of the school year in which the celebration takes place. This means that if a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is celebrating a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service on or after September 1<sup>st</sup> of any given year, he or she is required to attend an accredited religious school program for the remaining academic year. Furthermore, students who have completed five (5) years of Religious School studies or have graduated from The Lainer School of Sinai Temple or another accepted Jewish Day School prior to the year of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah are required to attend Chai School, a Sinai Program for graduates of The Lainer School, Milken Community High School, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles Hebrew High School, or another accredited Jewish school in the year of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

7. Sinai Temple recognizes the needs of committed members of the congregation who have children with significant learning disabilities. Therefore, private instruction under the direction of our Director of Religious School may be discussed. For these issues only a special Bar/Bat Mitzvah may be arranged with the Senior Cantor. The family needs to contact the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Coordinator to set up an appointment with the Director of the Religious School and the Senior Cantor to discuss the possible alternatives for the child with significant learning disabilities.

8. If the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee is not paid in full one year prior to the date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a cancellation of the reserved date may result.

9. If the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Policy of Sinai Temple is not followed, a date for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah may not be given and immediate cancellation of a scheduled date may occur. Notification of a cancellation of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date shall be in writing. Members that tender their resignation or do not renew their membership automatically lose their assigned Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.

***We have read and understand the Sinai Temple Bar/Bat Mitzvah Eligibility Requirements Policy and adopted by the Board of Directors of Sinai Temple. We agree and accept the policy and shall adhere to its requirements. Agreed:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Child's Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**For questions regarding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah policies or an upcoming Bnai Mitzvah ceremony, please contact Sarah Buchanan, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, at (310) 481- 3235 or sbuchanan@sinaitemple.org for additional information.**