

Czech-Republic:Overview

In the Czech Republic, schools are administered in the frame of general administration. The responsibility is distributed among the central government, regions and communities. The **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports** preserves and determines the integrated state educational policy. Regions are responsible for education on their territory. They are organising bodies for upper secondary and tertiary professional schools. The communities are responsible for pre-primary education and compulsory schooling. All schools have the status of legal entities. Public higher education institutions are established by law.

Pre-primary education is provided for children aged 3 to 6 in *mateřské školy* (nursery schools) which are part of the education system and have a long tradition. The attendance is not compulsory, nevertheless, it is very high.

Primary and lower secondary education is organised mostly within a single-structure system by *základní školy* (basic schools). Lower secondary education can be provided also by *víceletá gymnázia* (multi-year gymnázia) and *osmileté konzervatoře* (eight-year conservatoires). School attendance is compulsory for nine years, usually from the ages of 6 to 15.

Upper secondary education is provided by *střední školy* (upper secondary schools) in general and vocational fields and *konzervatoře* (conservatoires). School leavers acquire *střední vzdělání s maturitní zkouškou* (secondary education completed with a school-leaving examination), *střední vzdělání s výučním listem* (secondary education leading to an apprenticeship certificate) or *střední vzdělání* (secondary education). The age of pupils is usually 15 to 18/19.

Higher (tertiary) education is provided by *vyšší odborné školy* (tertiary professional schools) and through first, second and third cycle programmes by *vysoké školy* (higher education institutions).

Adult education includes general education programmes, vocational education, special interest education and other education.

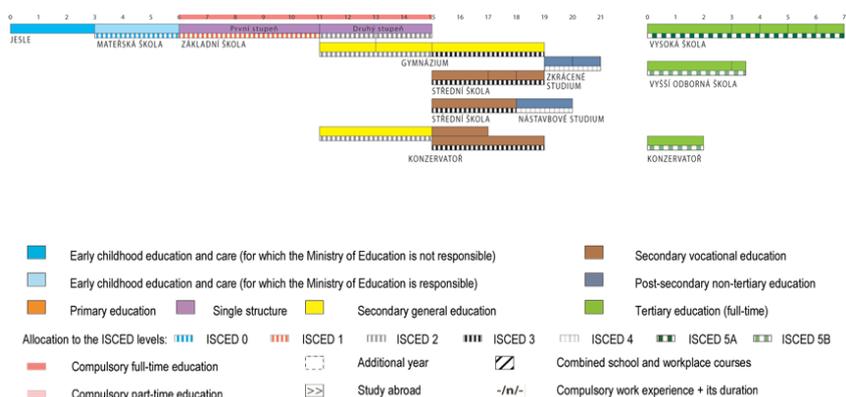
For further information, please consult the introduction articles of [Organisation and Governance](#) and of each educational level: [Early Childhood Education and Care](#), [Single Structure Education \(Integrated Primary and Lower Secondary Education\)](#), [Upper Secondary and Post Secondary Non-Tertiary Education](#), [Higher Education](#) and [Adult Education and Training](#).

For a brief description of other main topics regarding the national education system, please read the introduction article of [Funding in Education](#), [Teachers and Education Staff](#), [Management and Other Education Staff](#), [Educational Support and Guidance](#), [Quality Assurance](#), [Mobility and Internationalisation](#).

For information on recently adopted or planned reforms and policy measures, please consult topic [Ongoing Reforms and Policy Developments](#).

While Eurypedia provides comprehensive and comparable information, further information may also be found on the websites of the [Ministry Education, Youth and Sports](#), as well as e.g. the [National Institute for Education](#).

Structure of the national education system 2012/13



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Common European Reference Tools Provided by the Eurydice Network

- [National Student Fee and Support Systems](#)
 - [Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education](#)
 - [Organisation of School Time in Europe](#) (Primary and general secondary education)
 - [Recommended Annual Taught Time](#) in Full-Time Compulsory Education in Europe (Presented by grades/stages for full time compulsory education as well as by subject and country.)
 - [Teachers and School Heads Salaries and Allowances in Europe](#) (Salaries and allowances of teachers and school heads at pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education levels.)
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