

Greece:Overview

[Pre-primary education](#) in Greece begins at the age of 4 when children are allowed to enrol in Nipiagogeia (pre-primary schools). Attendance in them is compulsory for all 5 year old children. The operation of Nipiagogeia falls under the authority of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports. The next stage comprises the compulsory attendance of primary school which belongs to [primary education](#) and lasts for 6 years. The 3 year attendance in Gymnasio ([lower secondary education](#)) constitutes the last period of compulsory education and is a prerequisite for enrolling and attending general or vocational upper secondary schools. In parallel with day Gymnasio operate Evening Schools (Esperino Gymnasio) in which attendance starts at the age of 14. The second tier of secondary education lasts also for 3 years, constitutes the non-compulsory [upper secondary education](#) and comprises general secondary education (including Geniko Lykeio/General Lyceum) and vocational secondary education (including Epaggelmatiko Lykeio/Vocational Lykeio and Epaggelmatiki Scholi/Vocational School). In General and Vocational Lykeio pupils enrol at the age of 15 while in Vocational School at the age of 16. Parallel to day General and Vocational Lykeia operate evening schools with the same conditions concerning pupils' age for admission. Their timetable allows pupils to be in regular full time attendance and acquire work experience at the same time.

Between secondary and higher education operates post-secondary non-tertiary education. It is provided by [Vocational Training Institutes](#) (IEK) offering formal initial and further vocational education and training and [Kollegia](#) (colleges) classified as belonging in the informal post-secondary education and training. Study or other certificates that Kollegia provide are not academically equal to those granted within the framework of the Greek post-secondary system of formal education and higher education.

Higher education constitutes the last level of education system and comprises the University and Technological sectors. The [University sector](#) includes Universities, Technical Universities, and the School of Fine Arts. The Technological sector includes the [Technological Education Institutions](#) (TEIs), and the [School of Pedagogical and Technological Education](#) (ASPETE). [Lifelong Learning](#) policy in Greece is part of a wider development plan aiming at giving emphasis to human knowledge, abilities and skills.

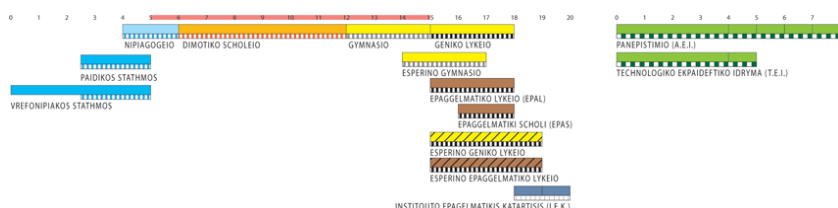
The Greek education system is governed by national laws and legislative acts (decrees, ministerial decisions). The general responsibility for education lies with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports. The Child and Infant Centres are under the auspices of the Municipal Authorities.























The administration of primary and secondary education is conducted hierarchically by: the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports; the Regional Education Directorates; the Directorates of Education (Prefecture); and the School.

Higher education institutions are fully self-administered legal entities of public law. Collective bodies that are established and act in compliance with special legislation administer each institution.

Detailed information on the Greek education system can also be sought at the [Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports](#) website.

Structure of the national education system 2012/13



 Early childhood education and care (for which the Ministry of Education is not responsible)	 Secondary vocational education		
 Early childhood education and care (for which the Ministry of Education is responsible)	 Post-secondary non-tertiary education		
 Primary education	 Single structure	 Secondary general education	 Tertiary education (full-time)
Allocation to the ISCED levels:  ISCED 0  ISCED 1  ISCED 2  ISCED 3  ISCED 4  ISCED 5A  ISCED 5B			
 Compulsory full-time education	 Additional year	 Combined school and workplace courses	
 Compulsory part-time education	 Study abroad	 -/ -	 Compulsory work experience + its duration

source: Eurydice

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.)