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Education Systems of Spain, Türkiye, and Greece



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Spain Education System

The education system in Spain is designed to provide free and compulsory education to all children. While regulated by the national government, it is largely managed by regional authorities. This can lead to some differences from one region to another. The system aims to ensure equal access to education and prepare students for either higher education or the workforce.

Preschool Education (Ages 0–6)

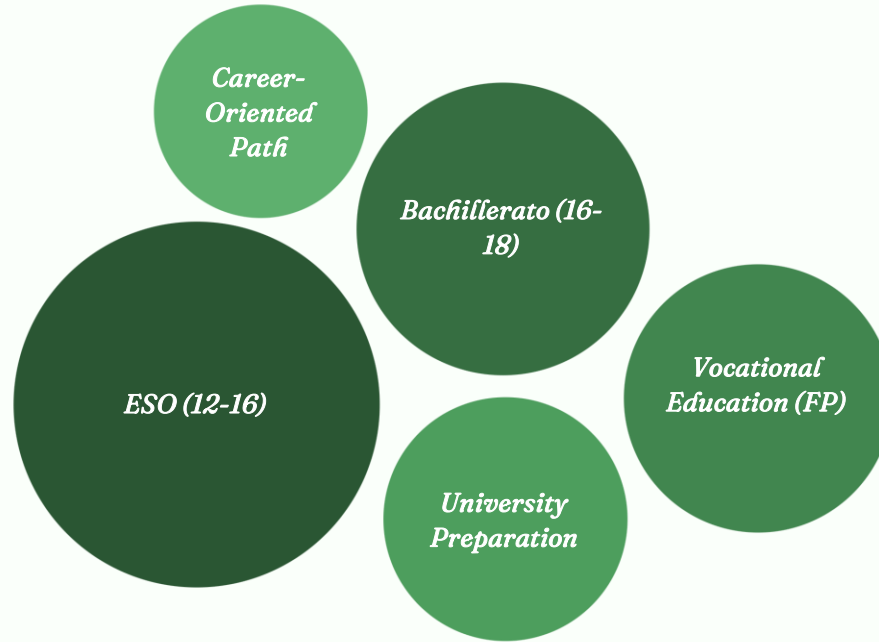
- 1 Not compulsory. It is divided into two stages: ages 0 - 3 (nursery) and ages 3 - 6 (mostly free in public schools).

Primary Education (Ages 6–12)

- 2 Compulsory and free. It lasts 6 years. It focuses on basic skills such as reading, writing, mathematics, and science.

i Due to its regional governance structure, educational practices in Spain may vary from one autonomous community to another. Regions such as Catalonia, the Basque Country, and Galicia use their own languages as languages of instruction.

Spain: Secondary Education and Beyond



After completing ESO, students can choose between two different paths: Bachillerato, which prepares them for university, or Vocational Education (FP), which is more practical and career-oriented. Both paths give students the opportunity to advance in different areas of specialization.

Bachillerato

- Lasts 2 years (ages 16 - 18)
- An academic path that prepares students for university
- Offers different subject specializations

Vocational Education (FP)

- More practical and career-oriented
- Includes basic, intermediate, and advanced levels
- Facilitates direct entry into working life

Spain: Higher Education and Key Features

Higher Education

- Undergraduate university programs (typically 4 years)
- Master's and doctoral programs
- Advanced vocational qualifications

University Entrance

Students usually take the EBAU exam to enter university.

Key Features

- Compulsory education runs from ages 6 to 16
- Public, semi-private (concertado), and private schools coexist
- Regional governments manage most of the system
- Both academic and vocational pathways are offered



School Types in Spain

There are three different school types in Spain. Each serves students with different funding models and educational approaches.



Public Schools

Schools funded by the state, non-religious, and free of charge (except for books and supplies). They are open to all students and follow the national curriculum.



Concerted Schools

Privately operated but state-subsidized schools. Many are Catholic; they must follow the same curriculum as public schools. They usually charge a "voluntary" monthly fee.



Private Schools

Fully private and tuition-based schools. Many international, British, and American schools fall into this category. They can follow their own curricula.



Türkiye Education System

In Türkiye, the education system is under state supervision, and the right to education is guaranteed by the constitution. Educational activities are carried out by the Ministry of National Education. Education is of great importance for the development of individuals and the progress of society.

Two Fundamental Dimensions of Education

Formal Education

Education provided in a planned manner in schools for specific age groups.

Non-Formal Education

It includes learning activities outside of school; it addresses all age groups.

Preschool Education (Ages 3–5)

Preschool education covers children ages 3 - 5 and is not compulsory. Its goals are:

- Support children's social development
- Develop language skills
- Prepare them for school

Türkiye: Education Levels



Primary School (Ages 6–9)

It lasts 4 years (grades 1-4) and is compulsory. Students learn reading and writing, gain basic math skills, and take social studies lessons.



High School (Ages 14–17)

It lasts 4 years and is compulsory. There are different types such as Anatolian High School, Science High School, Vocational and Technical High School, and Religious High School. Students are guided according to their interests and abilities.



Secondary School (Ages 10–13)

It lasts 4 years (grades 5-8) and is compulsory. The range of subjects expands, science and social studies come to the forefront, and foreign language education is provided.



Higher Education

It is provided at universities and regulated by YÖK. It includes associate degrees (2 years), bachelor's degrees (4 years), master's programs, and doctoral programs.



Türkiye: Basic Features and Exam System

Compulsory Education System (4+4+4)

In Türkiye, the education system is **12 years** of compulsory education:

4 Years

Primary School

4 Years

Secondary School

4 Years

High School

Exam System

Entrance exams play an important role in Türkiye:

- **LGS:** Transition to High School Exam
- **YKS:** Higher Education Institutions Exam

This system has a competitive structure.

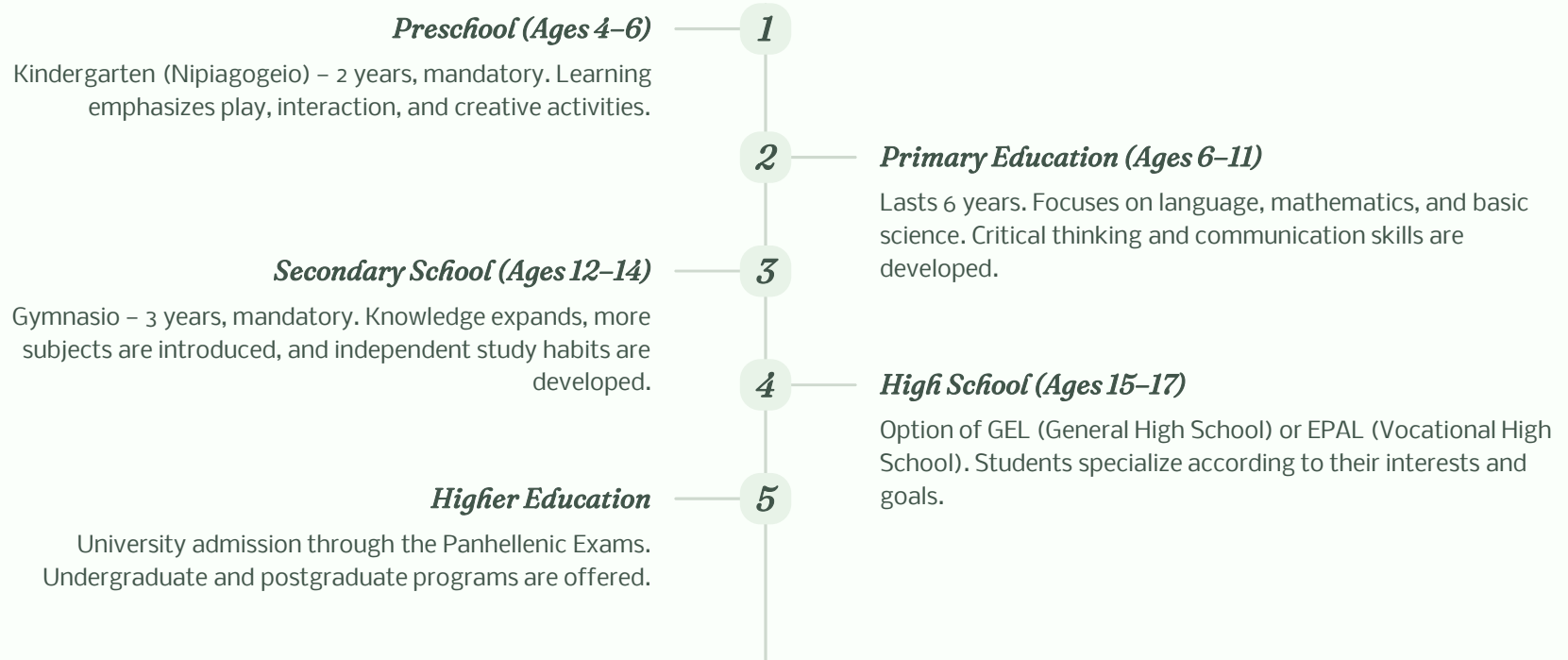
Non-Formal Education

It covers educational activities outside formal schooling. It supports lifelong learning through public education centers, courses, and certification programs.

- ✓ The Turkish education system has a structure open to development. Reforms are being implemented to create a more modern and effective system.

Greece Education System

The Greek education system begins with early childhood education and continues through primary, secondary, and higher education. Centrally organized and supervised by the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, this system ensures free access to education and a unified national curriculum across the country.



Greece: Secondary and Higher Education

Upper Secondary Education (Ages 15–17)

Students choose between two options:

General Lyceum (GEL)

Focuses on academic preparation for university. It offers a broad range of subjects and prepares students for the Panhellenic Examinations.

Vocational Lyceum (EPAL)

Combines general education with technical and practical training. It allows students to specialize according to their interests and future goals.



Higher Education

Students who succeed in the Panhellenic Examinations can enter higher education institutions. These institutions include long-established universities such as **the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens** and **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**. There, students can pursue undergraduate and graduate studies across a wide range of academic fields.

- 1 Thanks to its centralized structure, the Greek education system aims to provide consistent educational quality across the country. The Panhellenic Examinations play a decisive role in access to higher education.