

GREECE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION/CARE

AGE 0-3

Daycare center

AGE 4-6

Kindergarten school (*COMPULSORY*)

Experimental Kindergarten School

01



Early Education and Care

In Greece there are Daycare Centers which provide children up to the age of 4 with pre-school education. The last stage of pre-school education is carried out in Kindergarten Schools, where young students take preparatory courses for two years before enrolling in primary/elementary schools. In some kindergartens there are integration classes for students with learning and other difficulties, where specialized teachers try to integrate these children into the general class. Some of the kindergartens are termed “Experimental” or “Montel” , as they carry out experimental education practices, and are supervised by university departments specializing in pedagogics and primary education. There are also kindergartens which cater for students with physical or mental impairment, or special needs.



PRIMARY EDUCATION

AGE 6-12 (*COMPULSORY*)

- Primary school
- Experimental Primary School

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- Model Primary School
- Primary School for students with Special Needs

02

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary Education

Primary Schools welcome children of the age of 6. Some of these schools are termed “Experimental” or “Model” schools, as they carry out experimental education practices, and are supervised by university departments specializing in pedagogics and primary education. As in kindergarten in some primary schools there are integration classes for students with learning and other difficulties. There are also primary schools which cater for students with physical or mental impairment, or special needs. In all three types of primary schools, students learn basic skills in a number of subjects, like Language Reading and Writing, Environmental Studies, Maths, and English. Primary Schools in Greece operate between 8am and 1pm, while the majority of those offer extra classes on Physical Education, Art and Music until 4pm or 5:30pm.





Secondary education

AGE 12-15 (*COMPULSORY*)

Junior High school

Evening Junior High School

Experimental Junior High School

Model Junior High School

Music Junior High School

Arts Junior High School

Multicultural Junior High School

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Junior High School for students with Special Needs

03

Secondary Education

By law, all students graduating from primary education enroll and attend courses in a Junior High School. There are several types of Junior High Schools in Greece. Most students attend the Junior High School they are assigned to, which is usually located in their neighborhood. There are other alternatives, though, like being admitted to an Experimental Junior High School through a lottery system, or attending a Model Junior High School, after taking a nation-wide entrance exam. Students who have a special interest in painting, drama, dancing or music may attend a Junior High School that specializes in the field. There are also Junior High Schools which address students from a multicultural background, as well as students with special needs. Most Junior High Schools operate from 8am to 2pm, but there are also evening schools that operate from 7pm till 10pm for students – mainly adults – who work during daytime. A variety of subjects are taught in Junior High Schools, including Modern and Ancient Greek Language, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Music and Art, while special emphasis is given to foreign language learning, as students are taught both English and another European language of their choice (students tend to choose between French and German). Students take exams some of these subjects at the end of each school year.



SECONDARY EDUCATION

Although upper level Secondary Education is not compulsory in Greece, most students attend High School. At this level, students may opt to attend a General High School, an Experimental General High School or a Model General High School (mainly for graduates of Experimental and Model Junior High Schools respectively), or any High School specializing in music or the arts. Students from foreign countries can enroll in a Multicultural High School, while there are Special Vocational Education & Training Institutes for students with special needs. Students may also pursue vocational training in Vocational High Schools, or, once they are 16, they may enroll in a Vocational Evening High School and graduate after 4 years of study. In addition, there are Vocational Training Schools; in these schools, as well as in all Vocational High Schools students attend general education courses combined with workplace courses. At the final stage of their studies, a student may work as an apprentice and gain valuable work experience. As of September 2021, there are also Model Vocational High Schools.

Greek High Schools offer a combination of General Education courses and Advanced Placement courses. Students who wish to pursue studies in Higher Education take Panhellenic exams in a specific number of Advanced Placement courses which fall into one of the following categories: Humanities, Science and Medical Studies, Finance and Computer Science Studies. This is considered to be a tough and highly competitive exam process that students go through in order to ensure education at a higher level.



Higher Education

FROM THE AGE OF 18

University

Technological Educational Institute

School of Pedagogical and Technological Education

School of Fine Arts

Hellenic Open University

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Higher Education

The percentage of university graduates is considerably high in Greece. Most of them attend four-year studies in University departments and in Technological University departments, as well as in the various departments of the School of Pedagogical and Technological Education, while those attending Technical University departments – specializing in fields like architecture and engineering – graduate after five years of studies. Students who wish to enroll in the School of Fine Arts take special exams, and graduate after five years of studies too. Courses in Higher Education institutes in Greece are in the form of lectures or workshops, and most of the courses last one semester, that is, at least 13 weeks. Most university departments in Greece offer one-year or two-year postgraduate courses, as well as the opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree. Students may also enroll in the Hellenic Open University for graduate or postgraduate studies, where they pay tuition fees, and are admitted through an annual lottery system.





Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning Centers

Second Chance Adult Education School

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

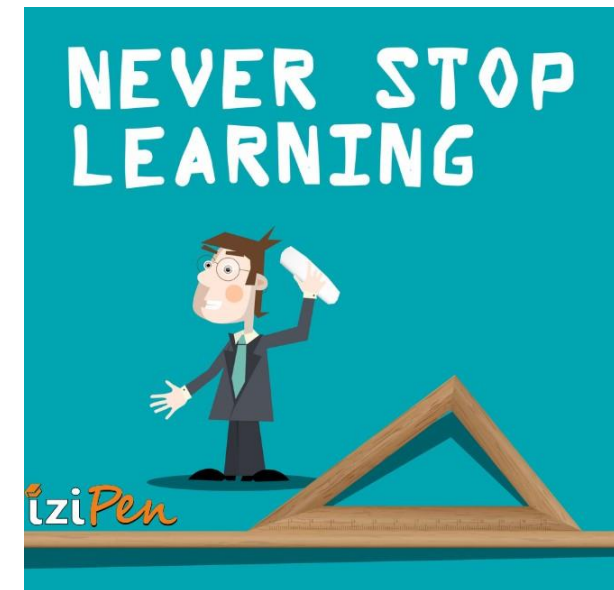
Vocational Training Schools

Vocational Training Institutes I

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LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong Learning centers are the main providers of Lifelong Learning in Greece, and they usually supervised by Municipality services. These centers offer a variety of courses, aiming at both formal and informal education. On the other hand, Vocational Training Institutes and Vocational Training Schools often adapt their curriculum to suit the needs of their adult students and of the labor market. Finally, Second Chance Adult Education Schools cater for those students who have dropped out of school at some point in their life, but wish to continue with their studies at a later date.



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