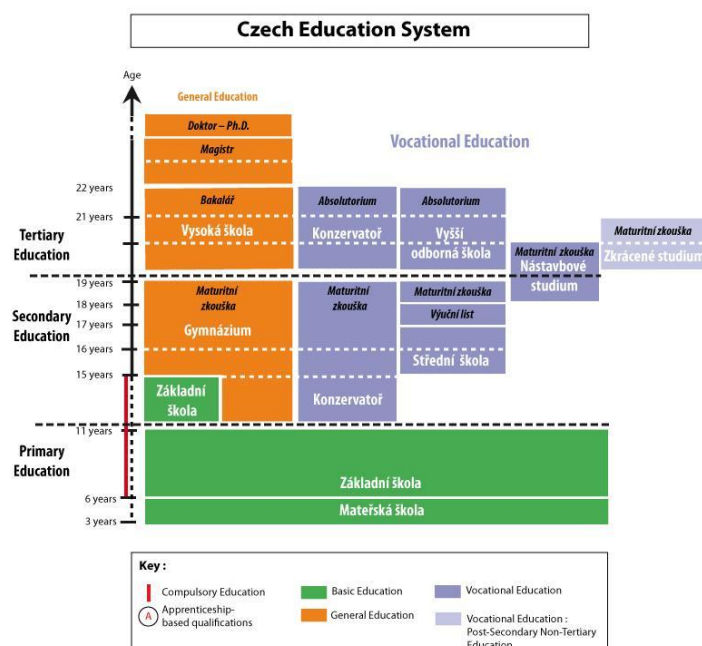


Czech Education System



Legislation:

Education Act No. 561/2004 Coll. – Act on pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary professional and other education:

- definition of school and quality of schools
- legal personality of schools, school self-administration; management of pedagogical processes
- the registry of schools
- evaluation of schools
- tasks, duties, competencies of the Czech School Inspectorate

Schools administered within the public administration and responsibilities distributed among the central government, regions and municipalities:

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, as the body responsible for the state administration in the area of education:

- is responsible for the state, conception and development of the education system;
- allocates financial resources from the state budget;
- sets out the qualification requirements and working conditions of teachers;
- determines the general content of education from pre-primary to secondary level;
- approves educational programmes of tertiary professional schools.

The Regions:

- establish upper secondary schools (ISCED 3);
- establish conservatoires (ISCED 2, ISCED 3, ISCED 5);
- establish tertiary professional schools (ISCED 6).

The Municipalities:

- establish nursery schools (ISCED 0);
- establish basic schools (ISCED 1, ISCED 2);
- ensure the compulsory schooling.

Glossary

- **Mateřska škola:** pre-primary education
- **Základní škola:** primary and lower secondary school
- **Gymnázium:** mainstream secondary school
- **Konzervatoře:** conservatoire – secondary and higher education in the field of arts
- **Střední škola:** secondary school combining mainstream education, theoretical vocational classes and practical training
- **Vyšší odborná škola:** higher vocational education
- **Vysoká škola:** university or non-university higher education institutes

Diplomas

- **Maturitní zkouška:** final examination completing 4 years of upper secondary education, must be passed to go on to higher education
- **Absolutorium:** final examination taken after completing higher technical education lasting 2 to 3½ years at a *vyšší odborná škola*, or 6 to 8 years at the *konzervatoř* (conservatoire).
- **Dis:** title (specialist with a diploma) obtained on completing studies at a *vyšší odborná škola*
- **Bakalář:** bachelor's degree validating 3 years of university studies
- **Magistr:** master's degree validating 5 years of university studies
- **Ph.D.:** doctorate

Secondary education

- Compulsory schooling lasts for 9 years, i.e. generally speaking from 6 to 15 years of age.
- Pupils then choose between:
 - Mainstream high school education (Gymnázium) to study for the Maturita and continue their studies in higher education
 - Secondary technical schools (Střední průmyslová škola) and integrated secondary schools (Integrovaná střední škola) combining mainstream education, theoretical vocational classes and practical training. At the end of their studies, the pupils take the Maturita (equivalent of A-levels), which means they can sit the entrance examinations for mainstream and technical universities.
 - Horizontal mobility between the streams is a viable option. At the end of their studies, pupils from vocational streams can find a job or go on to higher education whatever pathway was chosen at secondary school level. A school-leaving certificate (Maturitní zkouška) is required to enter higher education.

Higher education

Higher technical schools are located on the same campus as secondary technical schools and share resources with them. They offer technical education over a 3-year course at the end of secondary education. As yet, higher technical schools do not have a university status.

Apprenticeship

Vocational apprenticeship centres combine theoretical classes and practical work placements in enterprises, which make up a significant part of the course. Apprenticeships usually last for 3 years and are validated by an apprenticeship examination. In certain cases, pupils can choose a 4-year programme which, in addition to the vocational apprenticeship, gives them a broader education and enables them to take the Maturita.

