

The Greek Educational System

Organization

The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs is the Governmental organization that has the responsibility for the Education in Greece. It is the central administration organization for education in Greece.

It is responsible for all levels and types of education (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary, Lifelong learning).

For the Primary and Secondary Education responsible to implement the educational policies are a) at Regional Level Regional Education Directorates and b) at Local Level the Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education. In both cases the Directorates are responsible for all the public and private schools in the area of their responsibility.

Tertiary organizations are the Greek Public Universities. Universities are public institutions, but operate with significant autonomy.

Primary Education

Primary Education includes pre-primary and primary schools.

Pre-primary school, named Nipiagogeio, has recently become compulsory, and is addressed to students from 4 to 6 years old.

Primary schools, named **Dimotiko**, address students from 6 to 12 years old, and is compulsory, too.

Infant centres (vrefikoi stathmoi), infant/child centres (vrefonipiakoi stathmoi) and child centres (paidikoi stathmoi) represent early childhood care. They are run under the remit of the municipal authorities, for children between the ages of 2 months and up to the age of the beginning of compulsory education.

During the last years special structures for refugees have been established, to support primary education.

Secondary Education

Secondary education is offered to students from 12 to 18 years old and is comprised of two levels:

Lower Secondary School, named **Gymnasio**, lasts three years and provides general education to students from 12 to 15 years old. It is compulsory, and students should graduate Gymnasio, in order to proceed to the next level of secondary education.

Upper Secondary School named **Lykeio**, lasts three years, for students from 15 to 18 years old. There are two types of Lykeio:

1. Geniko Lykeio (General Upper High School) and
2. Epaggelmatiko Lykeio (Vocational Upper High School)

1 **Geniko Lykeio** offers core subjects for all students. Students are asked to select a cycle of specialization-direction (named Prosanatolismos) where special advanced subjects are

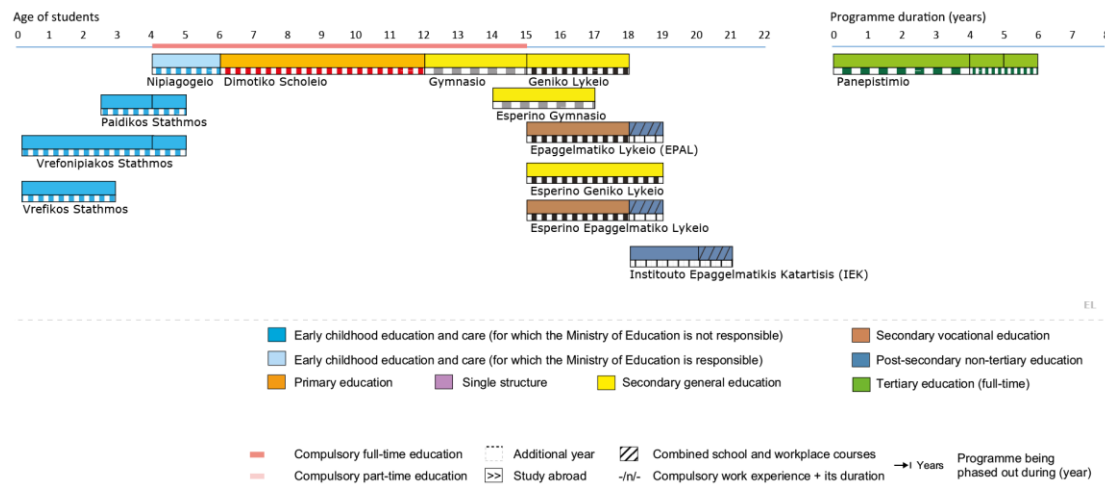
offered. After graduation students can participate in Panhellenic Exams, in order to proceed to Tertiary education. In the last year of Lykeio students decide a direction (Prosanatolismos) to attend. There are four directions and each one gives the opportunity to the students to be a candidate for certain schools at the Tertiary education.

2 **Epaggelmatiko Lykeio (EPAL)** offers two cycles of studies:

- a) First cycle which has various specialties. After graduation the students may also participate in Panhellenic Exams, to claim a certain percentage (lower than the one of Geniko Lykeio) in certain schools at the Tertiary education.
- b) Optional post-secondary cycle (apprenticeship class)

In Secondary education, for students that work, and cannot attend the day schools there are also

- a. Esperina genika (evening general) lykeia
- b. Esperina epaggelmatika (evening vocational) lykeia.



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(retrieved from https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/greece_en)

Tertiary education

After the graduation from Secondary education students can enrol in Higher education institutions, which belong to the last level of the formal education system. Most undergraduate degree programmes take 4 academic years of full-time study. Postgraduate courses last from one to two years, while doctorates at least 3 years.

LifeLong Learning (Non Formal Education)

Non-formal education can lead to certifications recognised at national level. Lifelong learning is provided at the following structures:

- a) Second chance schools (Scholeia defteris efkairias - SDE)
- b) Vocational training institutes (Institutouta epaggelmatikis katartisis – IEK)
- c) Lifelong learning centres (Kentra dia viou mathisis)

d) Colleges (Kollegia)

All the above besides Second chance schools can be public or private, while Second Chance schools are only public.