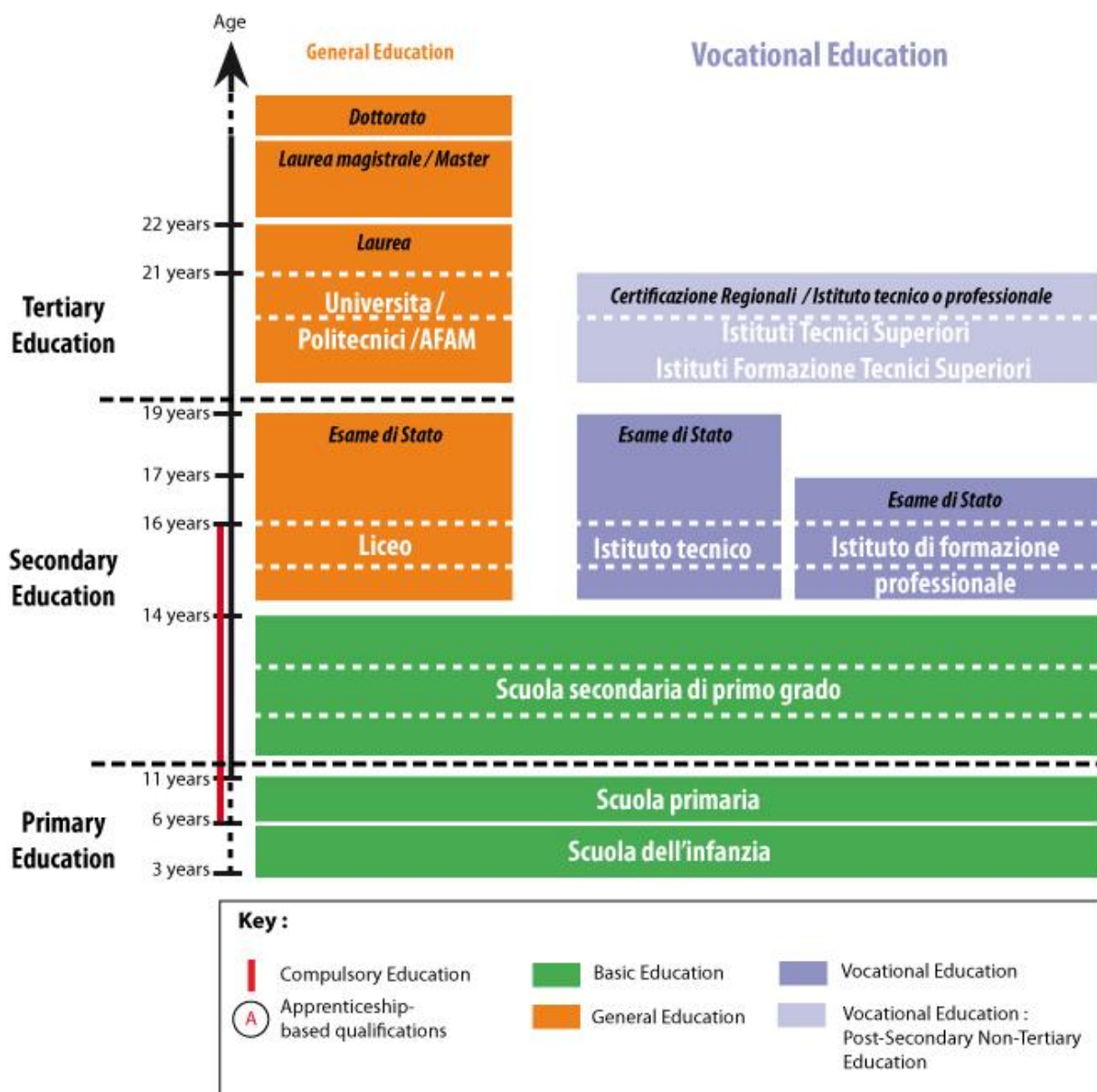


Education in Italy¹.

Education in Italy is compulsory for 10 years, a period during which children go through three levels of formal education: primary school, lower secondary school and upper secondary school.



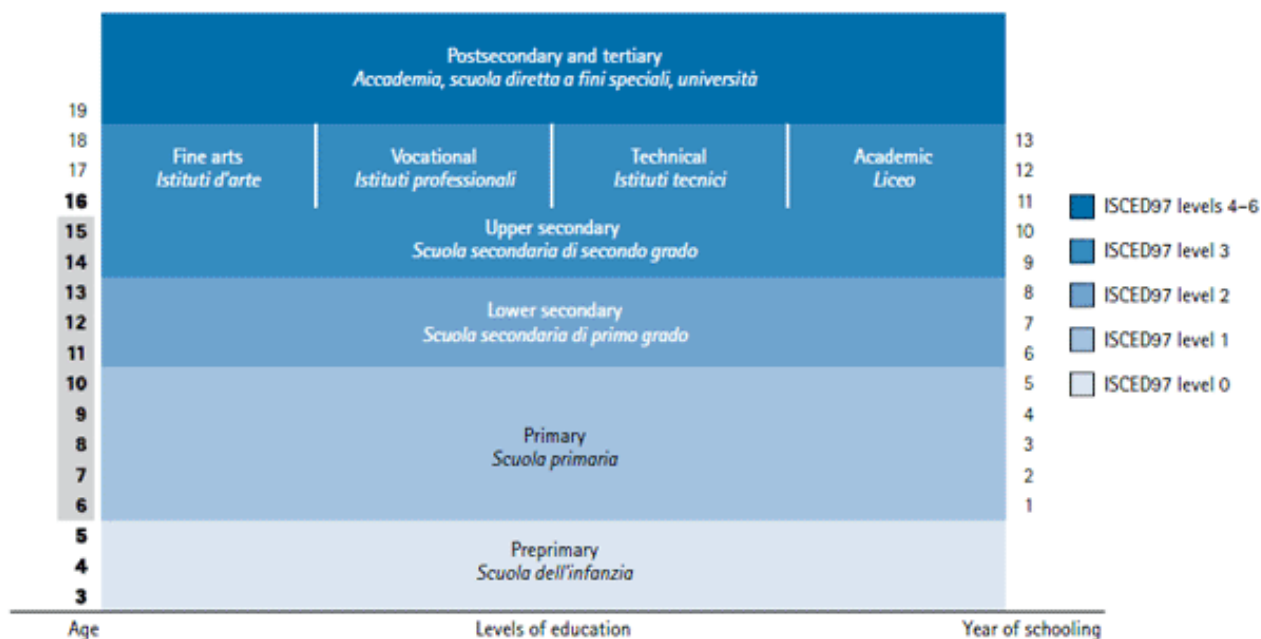
The Italian education and training system is organized according to the principles of subsidiarity and autonomy of educational institutions. The State has exclusive legislative competence for the "general education rules" and for determining the essential levels of benefits that must be guaranteed throughout the national territory. The State defines the fundamental principles that the regions must respect in the exercise of their specific competences. The Regions have concurrent legislative power in education and exclusive

¹MIUR "Sistema educativo di istruzione e di formazione" - english translation <https://www.miur.gov.it/sistema-educativo-di-istruzione-e-formazione>

² https://mavoieproeurope.onisep.fr/en/files/2012/11/italie_en.jpg

power in vocational education and training. Statal educational institutions have autonomy in teaching, organization, research and development.

The education system is organized as follows:



- 1) **nursery school or pre-primary**, not compulsory, for kids from 3 to 5/6 years;

Common name: **Scuola dell'infanzia**
 Ages of attendance: As early as age 3 through age 5/6
 Number of years: 1 to 3
 Start of universal enrollment: Age 3
 Compulsory: No

- 2) compulsory **first cycle of education** lasting 8 years, divided into

- a) **primary school**, lasting five years, for pupils from 6 to 11 years;

Common name: **Scuola primaria**
 Ages of attendance: 6 through 10
 Number of years: 5
 Universal enrollment: Yes
 Compulsory: Yes, begins at 6

- b) **first grade/lower secondary school**, lasting three years, for pupils aged 11 to 14;

Common name: **Scuola secondaria di primo grado**
 Ages of attendance: 11 through 13
 Number of years: 3
 Universal enrollment: Yes
 Compulsory: Yes

Entrance/exit criteria: Students must pass a national exit examination to obtain the diploma di esame di stato conclusivo del primo ciclo d'istruzione and enter upper secondary school.

3) **second cycle of education** divided into two types of courses:

- a) second grade/upper secondary school, lasting five years, for students who have successfully completed the first cycle of education. The schools organize high school courses, technical institutes and professional institutes for students aged 14 to 19;
- b) three-year and four-year courses of vocational education and training (VET) of regional competence, for students who have successfully completed the first cycle of education.

Common name: **Scuola secondaria di secondo grado**

- Liceo, including classico, scientifico, linguistico, delle scienze umane - Academic secondary schools
- Istituti d'arte, liceo artistico, liceo musicale e coreutico— Fine arts schools and institutes
- Istituti professionali—Vocational schools
- Istituti tecnici—Technical schools
- Istruzione e formazione professionale (IFP)—3-year vocational education and training program

Ages of attendance: 14 through 18 (graduation generally at age 19)

Number of years: 5 (except for the 3-year IFP programs)

Universal enrollment: Through age 16

Compulsory: Through age 15

Entrance/exit criteria: Students must possess the diploma di esame di stato conclusivo del primo ciclo di istruzione from lower secondary school to enter upper secondary school. At the end of 5 years of instruction, students must pass a national examination in order to obtain a diploma di superamento dell'esame di stato.

NOTE: Every student who has completed 5 years of upper secondary school and has obtained a *diploma di superamento dell'esame di stato* may attend university and other forms of higher education. Students are tracked in academic as well as technical and vocational schools in Italy. Students in Italy may attend specialized art schools, such as istituti d'arte and liceo artistico at the upper secondary level. Students attending vocational schools may attend 3- or 5-year training or apprenticeship programs in applied fields, after which they often enter the labor force. Liceo linguistico focuses on modern foreign languages and cultures. The liceo classico and scientifico prepare students for university studies. Liceo classico focuses on literature, philosophy, and Latin and Greek languages. Liceo scientifico focuses on mathematics and science. Liceo socio-psico-pedagogico has a sociological, psychological, and pedagogical orientation.

Compulsory education is from from 6 to 16 years old and includes the eight years of the first cycle of education and the first two years of the second cycle (Law 296 of 2006), which can be attended in upper secondary school- state - or in the regional vocational education and training courses.

Furthermore, all young people have the right to education and training for at least 12 years, up to the achievement of a three-year professional qualification by the age of 18 (law No. 53/2003).

Compulsory education can be carried out in stata schools (law 62 of 2000), which constitute the public education system, but it can also be carried out in non-public schools (law 27 of 2006) or through family education. In the latter two cases, however, the fulfillment of the compulsory education must be subject to a series of conditions, such as the performance of fitness exams.

The parents of the pupils, or those who exercise the parental homeland, are responsible for the fulfillment of the education obligation of minors, while the Municipalities of residence and school managers supervise the fulfillment of the obligation.

At the end of the compulsory education period, usually scheduled at the end of the second year of secondary school, if the student does not continue his studies, a certification of the skills acquired is issued (Ministerial Decree 139 of 2007).

After passing the final state exam of secondary education, the student can access tertiary education courses. Some university courses are limited and students must pass an access test.

- 4) **higher education** (not compulsory) offered by universities, institutions of advanced artistic, musical and coreutic education (AFAM) and by higher technical institutes (ITS) with different types of courses:
 - a) tertiary education courses offered by universities
 - b) tertiary education courses offered by the institutions of the Artistic, Musical and Coreutic Training
 - c) vocational training courses offered by ITS (Higher Technical Institutes)

Postsecondary and tertiary:

- Common name: Accademia, scuola diretta a fini speciali, università Alta formazione artistica e musicale—Arts and music
- Scuole superiori per la mediazione linguistica—School for interpreters
- Istruzione e formazione tecnica superiore—Technical education and training
- Laurea, laurea specialistica, dottorato di ricerca, diploma di specializzazione—Academic higher education, university

Ages of attendance: Varies

Number of years: Varies according to degree program

Universal enrollment: No

Entrance criteria: In order to enter university, students must possess a diploma di superamento dell'esame di stato, a second-ary school diploma obtained after passing a national exam.

NOTE: The higher education system in Italy underwent a reform process to make it more compatible with the higher education systems of other European countries. University degree programs are now based on two main cycles—the 3-year foundation degree, or laurea, followed by a 2 year specialist degree, or laurea specialistica/magistrale—with third-cycle degree options (dottorato di ricerca and diploma di specializzazione), which are similar to a doctorate in the United States. These changes were made to increase educational exchange between Italy and other European Union countries.

Common degree programs:³

Accademia degrees: Fine arts, restoration, and music degrees. Accademia degrees have been divided into two cycles according to the recent reforms, the first one taking 3 years to complete and the second one taking 2 years to complete. The diploma accademico di primo livello is awarded after the first cycle, and the diploma accademico di secondo livello is awarded after the second cycle.

Laurea: A first-level university degree taking 3 years from university entry to complete. It is characterized by both theoretical and applied studies, similar to a bachelor's degree in the United States.

Laurea specialistica/magistrale: Graduate specialized degree requiring 2 years of university study after a first-level degree, similar to a master's degree in the United States.

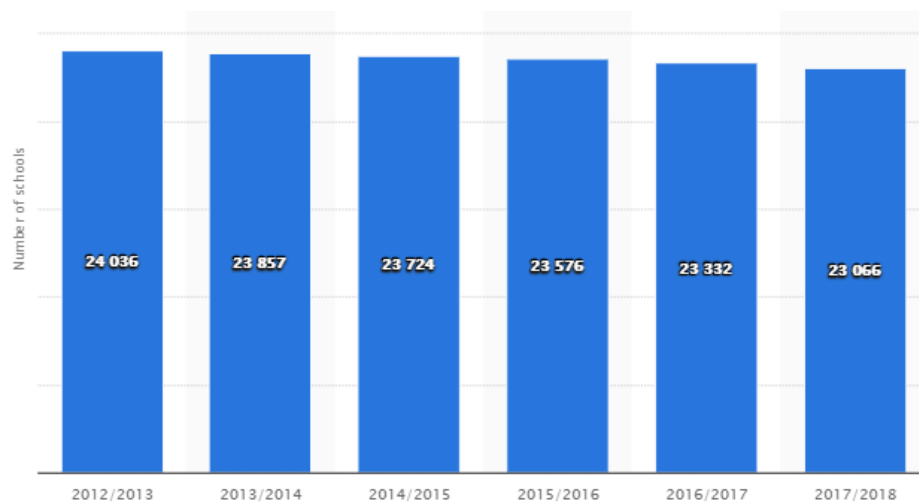
Master universitario di primo livello: A professional graduate program requiring at least 1 year of study after obtaining a laurea.

Master universitario di secondo livello: A professional graduate program requiring at least 1 year of study after obtaining a laurea specialistica/magistrale.

Dottorato di ricerca: Doctoral degree program focusing on research and taken at a university. Typically requires 3 years of instruction after the laurea specialistica/magistrale.

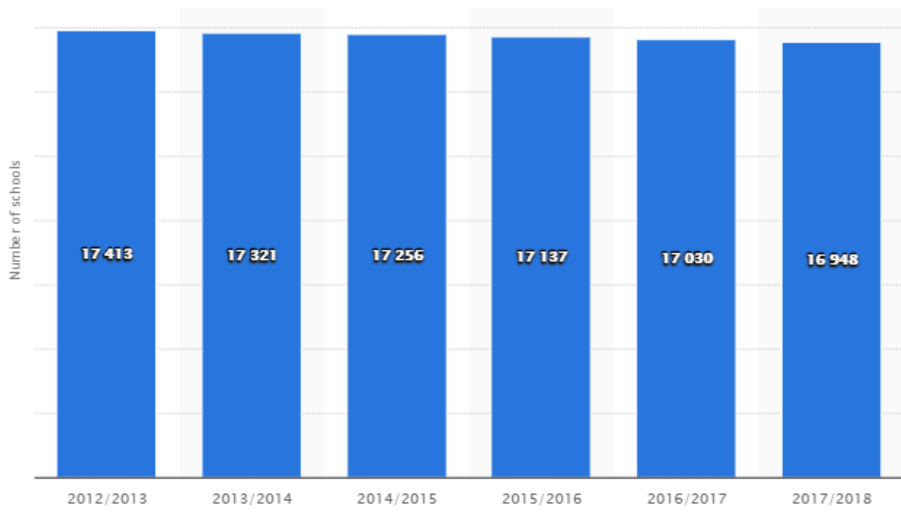
Diploma di specializzazione: Doctoral degree program for a specialized professional degree, such as medicine or law. Typically requires 2–6 years after the laurea specialistica/magistrale.

Number of kindergartens in Italy in the school years between 2012 and 2018

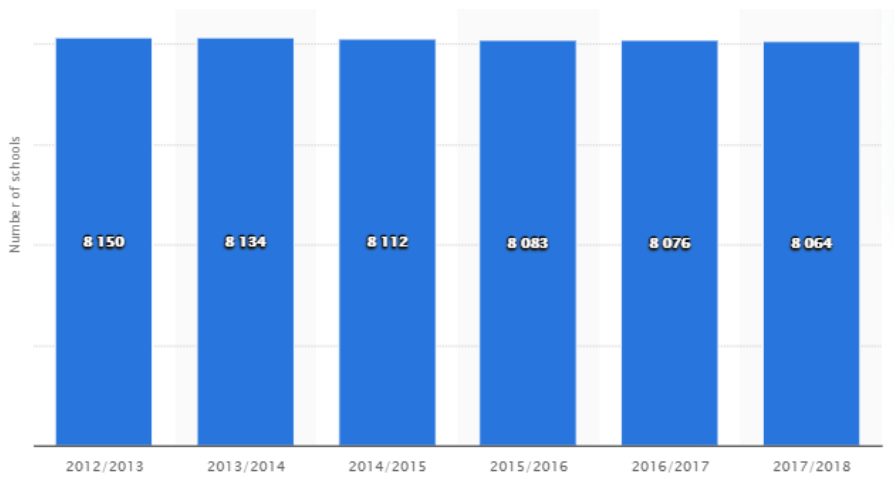


³IES NCES National Center for Education Statistics https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016100/app_a10.asp

Number of elementary schools in Italy in the school years between 2012 and 2018



Number of middle schools in Italy in the school years between 2012 and 2018



Number of high schools in Italy 2017-2018, by region

