

The Turkish Educational System

Facts and Figures

Official Name: Republic of Turkey

Location: Turkey is bordered on the northwest by Bulgaria and Greece; on the north by the Black Sea; on the northeast by Georgia and Armenia; on the east by Iran; on the south by Iraq, Syria, and the Mediterranean Sea; and on the west by the Aegean Sea.

Form of Government: Parliamentary Democracy

Legislature: Grand National Assembly

Capital: Ankara

Population: 74.724.269 (31 December 2011)

Area: Total - 783 .562 km2 (37th in the world) -Water %: 1.3

Life Expectancy: Women: 76.6 (2011) Men: 71.7 (2011)

Industries: Tourism, Automotive, Machine, Electric and Electronics, Textiles, Food processing, Mining, Steel, Petroleum, Construction, Lumber, Paper, Chemicals

Agriculture: Wheat, tobacco, cotton, olives, sugar beets, pulses, citrus fruits, nuts, barley, oilseeds, tea, vegetables, rice; sheep, goats, cattle, poultry, dairy, eggs, meat, honey, hides

Natural Resources: Antimony, coal, petroleum, natural gas, bauxite, manganese, chromium, mercury, copper, borate, sulfur, iron ore

More information: mtegm.meb.gov.tr/documents/2/2.html

Formal education in Turkey, which is governed by the Ministry of National Education (www.meb.gov.tr), includes pre-school education, primary education and secondary education. The Council of Higher Education (YOK, www.yok.gov.tr) is responsible for the planning, coordination and supervision of higher education. The law of Vocational Qualifications Agency (VQA / MYK www.myk.gov.tr) has been accepted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in September 2006. The establishment VQA will achieve a system that will enable mobility among academic and vocational fields appropriate for assessment at all levels, grading and certification based on the accepted occupational standards.



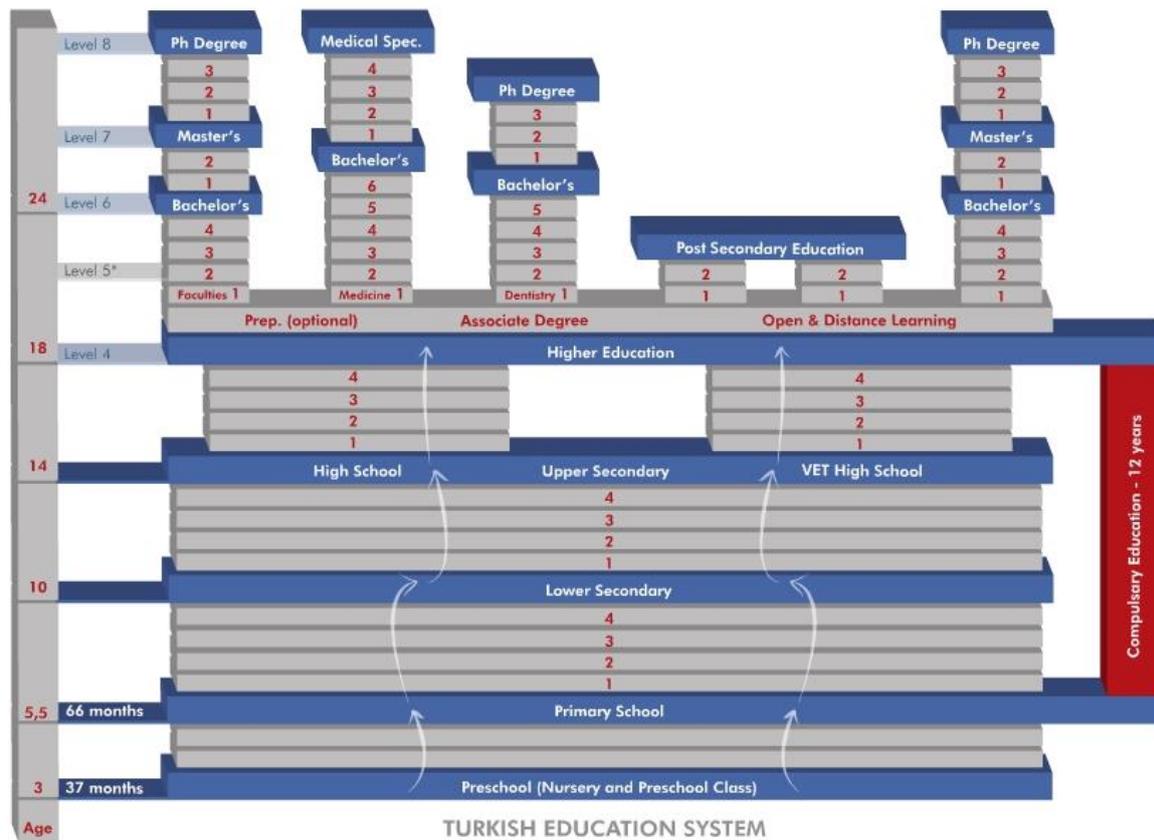
Turkish education system is under the supervision and control of the state, namely the Ministry of National Education. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, everyone has the right to receive education. Education is compulsory from ages 6 to 14 and free in state schools. The country's primary schools currently have a 98 percent participation rate.

The academic year in Turkish education institutions generally begins in the mid-September or early October and continues to May or early June. There is also a two-week winter break in February.

“Special education” is currently provided for the following groups of children and young people:

- The visually impaired, hearing impaired,
- The orthopedically impaired, chronically ill.

Stages of the Education System



Pre-School Education: Optional kindergarten education, up to 6 years of age.

Primary Education: Compulsory and free basic education for eight years (5 years elementary + 3 years secondary), 6-14 years of age.

Secondary Education: 4 years of High School (Lycee), or Vocational High School education, 15-17/18 years of age. Some schools might have an additional year of language study. High schools are mostly owned by the government and provide free education.

Types of education institutions	School types	Duration (Year)	Ages
General Secondary Education	-General High School -Anatolian High School -Science High School -Social Sciences High School -Fine Art and Sports High School -Anatolian Teacher High School -Multi Programmed High Schools	4	14-17
Vocational and Technical Upper Secondary Education	-Technical and Industrial Vocational Schools -Technical and Industrial Vocational Schools for Girls -Hotel and Tourism Vocational High School -Commerce High School -Health Vocational High School -Special Education Vocational Schools -Multi-Programmed High Schools	4	14-17

General secondary education includes high schools, foreign language teaching high schools, Anatolia high schools, high schools of science, Anatolia teacher training high schools, and Anatolia fine arts high schools.

“Vocational and technical secondary education” involves the institutions that raise students as manpower in business and other professional areas prepare them for higher education and meet the objectives of general secondary education. Vocational and technical secondary education includes technical education schools for boys, technical education schools for girls, trade and tourism schools, religious education schools, multi-program high schools, special education schools, private education schools and health education schools.

In the academic year 2011-2012, about 16 million students were being educated and 515,000 teachers were employed in 60,165 schools.

For details: www.sabah.com.tr/Egitim/2012/04/18/turkiyenin-egitim-tablosu

The basic education program includes Turkish language and literature, mathematics, social studies, science, civics and human rights, the history of the Turkish Republic, a foreign language (English, French or German), individual and group activities, religious culture and ethics, art/handicraft, music, physical education, traffic safety and first aid, career guidance, and elective courses. In primary schools, students are graded on a scale of 1-5 (maximum), with 2 being the minimum passing grade (equivalent to 45/100).

Types of High Schools

Public High Schools: Any student who successfully completes 8 years of basic education can go onto these schools. Graduates of public high schools, if successful in the nationwide University Entrance Examinations (YGS and LYS), can go onto higher education institutions. Graduates are awarded with the Lycee Diploma.

Vocational High Schools: Some of these schools may take an additional year to complete. Graduates can automatically go on to higher vocational schools (2 Year Vocational Colleges) in their respective fields of study if they wish. Alternatively, if successful in the university entrance examination, they can go onto 4-year schools in their respective fields.

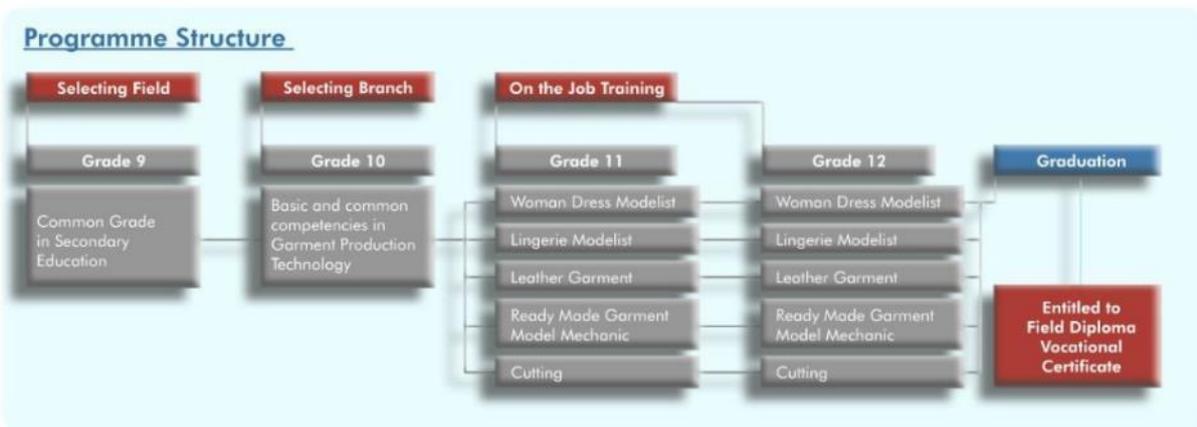
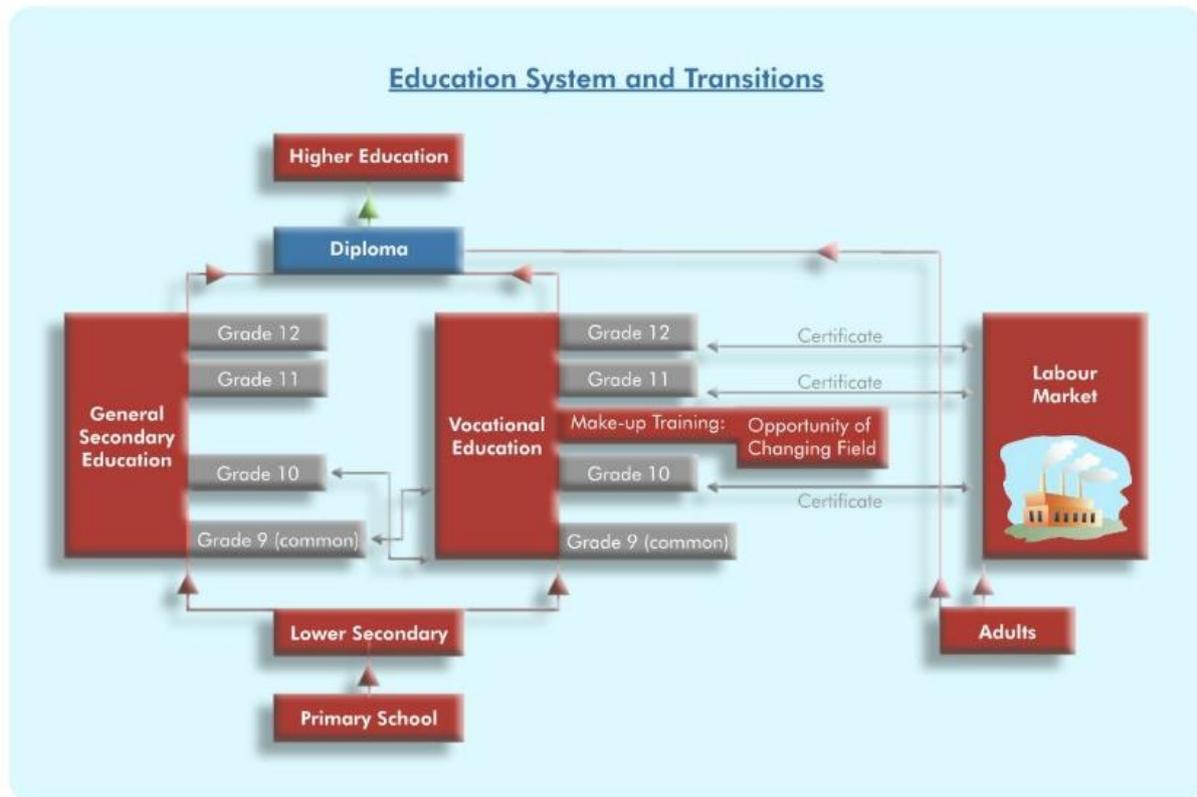


Anatolian High Schools : One year of English study followed by 3 years of regular high school education, additional hours for English. Math and Science lessons at these schools are sometimes taught in English. Lessons at some Anatolian high schools are taught in either German or French.

Super High Schools: The difference between these and normal high schools is one extra year of English study. They differ from Anatolian high schools in that the language of instruction for math and science courses is always Turkish and fewer hours are given to English lessons.

Science High Schools: These are special public schools for students who have exceptional aptitude in the sciences. These very competitive high schools train students specifically for higher education in the sciences, technical and medical fields. There is also Anatolian Science High Schools, where the medium of instruction for math and sciences is sometimes in English.

Private High Schools: Most private high schools charge very high tuition fees and are very competitive.



Higher Education

Higher education institutions in Turkey fall into three categories:

- Universities,
- Military and police colleges and academies,
- Vocational schools affiliated with ministries.

Higher Education: 4 years of University, or 2 years at Higher Vocational Schools. Some schools have an additional year of language study. Under normal circumstances, Master's study lasts 2 years; PhD 3-5 years. This category includes all educational institutions which will provide post-secondary education. They are under the supervision of Higher Educational Council (YOK).

Types of Higher Education Institutions

State Universities: The university system in Turkey is governed by the Higher Educational Council (YOK). Turkey has 104 state and 62 private universities (a total of 166 institutions of higher learning), 5 of which are located in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Apart from the public and private universities, 8 foundation higher vocational schools serve the job market.

Generally, undergraduate education takes 4 years at universities, but some fields such as medicine (6 years), dentistry (5 years), and veterinary science (5 years) take longer. Turkish high school graduates go directly into fields of study such as medicine, law, dentistry and so on. No tuition fee is charged at public schools; students pay only a small basic fee. Students need to pass a nationwide University Entrance Exams to enter a university. The graduates of 4-year programs are awarded with the Bachelor's Degree.

The medium of instruction at some state universities is English, German or French. Therefore, all correspondence with the university staff and applications to the faculties can be done in English, German or French. However, instruction language at state universities is mostly Turkish. When entering the exam of the university, the knowledge of Turkish is not necessary. Those who pass the exams, and have only a little knowledge of Turkish, are considered to take one year of language foundation to gain proficiency in the Turkish language.

Graduate-level programs consist of master and doctoral programs, coordinated by institutes in universities. Medical specialty programs are carried out within the faculties of medicine and the training hospitals owned by the Ministry of Health and the Social Security Institute.

Higher Vocational Schools: They offer 2 years of undergraduate study after high school and are very much like the community colleges in the USA. The only difference is that students cannot easily transfer to 4-year schools in the USA due to fewer places at the 4-year schools. Two year graduates must take the national Vertical Transfer Test and have a high GPA to be able to apply to 4-year schools. The graduates of 2-year programs are awarded with the Associate's or Pre-Bachelor's Degree.

Private or Foundation Universities: In Turkey, private foundations obtained the right in 1984 to establish and develop universities. They were established with the fundamental aim of creating a centre of excellence in higher education and research. Private universities take more active initiatives to form and to select international and global educational and research networks.

The medium of instruction in most private universities is English. Almost all have one year of English study for those whose level of English is not found to be proficient upon entrance.