

Comparative Analysis of European Educational Systems

	European Union									Extra-european	
	Belgium	Estonia	France	Germany	Greece	Italy	Slovenia	Spain	Portugal	USA	South Korea
At what age does full-time compulsory education/training start ?	5 years old	7 years old	3 years old	6 years old	4 years old	6 years old	6 years old	6 years old	6 years old	from 5 to 8 years old	6 years old
Until what age is full-time education/training mandatory ?	15 years old* (*from 15 to 18 no longer full-time compulsory education but part-time schooling with part-time employment possible)	16-17 years old* (*The obligation to attend schools lasts until basic education is acquired or until a student attains 17 years of age.)	16 years old* (*from 16-18 no longer compulsory education but compulsory training "obligation à la formation")	from 15 to 16 years old* (* then from 15/16 to 18/19 part-time schooling mandatory)	15 years old	16 years old	15 years old	16 years old	18 years old	from 16 to 18 years old	15 years old
Duration of full-time compulsory education	13 years in total	10 years in total	13 years in total	9 - 10 years in total of full-time schooling	11 years in total	10 years in total	9 years in total	10 years in total	12 years in total	from 8 to 13 years in total	9 years in total
How many schools does a European pupil have to attend during its compulsory education?	4 schools	1 or 2 schools	4 schools	2 schools* (*for the general pathway "Grundschule" + "Gymnasium" more in the training pathway)	3 schools	3 schools	1 unique school	2 schools	2 schools	3 schools	2 schools
Start and end of a school year in general education (for the primary and general secondary school, based on 2022-2023)	begining of september - end of June	begining of september - mid June	begining of september - begining of July	begining of August/ mid september - mi June/ end of July* (*vary significantly according to the länder)	mid september - mid June	begining/mid september - begining/mid June* (*vary significantly according to the regions)	begining of september - end of June	begining/mid september - mid/end of June* (*vary significantly according to the regions)	mid september - mid June	mid august /begining september - early/mid June	begining march - end of January
Approximate number of school days in a school year (based on 2019/2020)	182 days	177 days	163 days in primary school and lower secondary school (collège) - 180 days in upper secondary school (lycée)	186 days	173 days in primary school - 184 in secondary school	200 days	189 days in primary school - 181 days in lower secondary school (collège) - 165 days in upper secondary school (lycée)	175 days	161-173 days* (*according to schools first day)	from 160 to 180 days (majority of states required 180)	220 days* (*pupils have school from Monday to Saturday, 2 saturdays off per month)
Approximate number of holiday weeks in a school year (based on 2022/2023)	15 weeks	14 weeks	16 weeks	12 weeks	15 weeks	14 weeks	from 12 to 16 weeks	14 weeks	15-16 weeks	16 weeks	11 weeks
The minimal qualification of general education staff (primary and secondary school)	bachelor degree (CITE 6) required for primary school and lower secondary school (collège), master degree (CITE 7) for upper secondary school (lycée)	master degree (CITE 7) for both primary school and secondary school	master degree (CITE 7) is required to teach in both	master degree (CITE 7) for both primary school and secondary school	bachelor degree (CITE 6) is required to teach in both	master degree (CITE 7) for both primary school and secondary school	master degree (CITE 7) for both primary school and secondary school	bachelor degree (CITE 6) required for primary school, master degree (CITE 7)secondary school	master degree (CITE 7) for both primary school and secondary school	bachelor degree + one-year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (CITE 6) is required to teach in both	bachelor degree (CITE 6) is required to teach in both