

# INTEGRATED

A Learning Space For Everyone

# Information Booklet ENGLISH



Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union

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**The Greek School System**

In **Greece**, according to the Greek **Constitution**, Education is the responsibility of the **State** and is **free** at all levels, from pre-school to university. There is also the option of a private-run school.

The Greek educational system is divided into **compulsory** and **non-compulsory**. Compulsory education begins in kindergarten and ends in lower secondary school. This means that it is compulsory for students to be in school roughly from **4 to 15** years old.

**School Structure**

**PRIMARY EDUCATION**

**INFANT/CHILD CENTERS (NOT COMPULSORY)**  
0 – 4 years old

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**  
0 – 6 years old

**KINDERGARTEN (GENERAL) (COMPULSORY)**  
Roughly from 4 – 6 years old

**OTHER TYPES: SPECIAL KINDERGARTEN (EIDIKO)**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GENERAL)**  
Roughly from 6 – 12 years old

**OTHER TYPES: EXPERIMENTAL (PIRAMATIKA), MODEL (PROTIPA), INTERCULTURAL (DIAPOLITISMIKA), MINORITY (MIONOTIKA) AND SPECIAL (EIDIKA) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**Early Childhood  
Primary**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD (PAIDIKOS – VREFONIPIAKOS)**

Early childhood education and care is delivered by Municipal Authorities (Ministry of Interior), or by private centers (Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity). Their main purpose is to help children grow physically, mentally, emotionally and socially.

**KINDERGARTEN (NIPIAGOGIO)**

The Greek Kindergarten is based on cross-thematic principles. Learning areas: Social and Personal Development, Environmental Education, ICT, Social Sciences, Language, Arts, Maths, and Physical Education. Areas of development: emotional, social, communicative/verbal, cognitive and bodily.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (DIMOTIKO)**

The Greek Elementary School is based on cross-thematic principles. Teaching subjects: Language,

Religious Education, History, Mathematics, Study of the Environment, Geography, Natural Sciences

Civics, Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Drama), Physical Education, English, 2nd Foreign Language, and ICT.

**OTHER TYPES**

Apart from the general schools, there are also other special purpose schools. For example, there are schools for students with special educational needs (Eidika), as well as for students who live in areas where there are many immigrant, repatriate, refugee or Roma families (Diapolitismika). Apart from this, within the General schools, there are structures such as Reception Classes for the latter (Taxis Ipodoxis) and Integration Classes for students of special educational needs

Lower Secondary

Upper Secondary

Post Secondary

**SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**LOWER SECONDARY (COMPULSORY)**  
Roughly from 15 – 18 years old

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL (GIMNASIO) (GENERAL)**

**OTHER TYPES: MUSIC (MOUSIKO), ART (KALLITEHNIKO), INTER-CULTURAL (DIAPOLITISMIKO), MODEL (PROTIPO), EXPERIMENTAL (PIRAMATIKO), EVENING (ESPERINO), MINORITY (MIONOTIKO), ECCLESIASTICAL (EKLISIASTIKO), EUROPEAN EDUCATION, AND SPECIAL (EIDIKO)**

**UPPER SECONDARY (NON-COMPULSORY)**  
Roughly from 15 – 18 years old

**HIGH SCHOOL (LIKIO) (GENERAL)**

**VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (EPAL)**

**OTHER TYPES: MUSIC (MOUSIKO), ART (KALLITEHNIKO), INTERCULTURAL (DIAPOLITISMIKO), MODEL (PROTIPO), EXPERIMENTAL (PIRAMATIKO), EVENING (ESPERINO), MINORITY (MIONOTIKO), ECCLESIASTICAL (EKLISIASTIKO), EUROPEAN EDUCATION, AND SPECIAL (EIDIKO)**

**OTHER TYPES: EVENING (ESPERINO), SPECIAL (EIDIKO), AND SPECIAL NEEDS VOCATIONAL AND TRAINING WORKSHOP (EEEEK)**

**Tertiary**

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (GENERAL)**

At general lower secondary schools, the students are taught the following subjects: Modern and Ancient Greek Language and Literature, Mathematics, Sciences, Social and Civic Studies, Home Economics, History, English, Foreign Languages, ICT, Religious Education, Physical Education, Music, and Art. The students take exams in the end of the school year in order to pass to the next class.

**HIGH SCHOOL (GENERAL)**

At the first two classes the students are taught the following subjects: Modern and Ancient Greek Language and Literature, Mathematics, Sciences, Civic Studies, History, Foreign Languages, ICT, Creative Research Project, Religious Education, Physical Education, Music, and Art. There are also other subjects that they can choose as electives. At the third grade the students, apart from general and elective subjects, are also split in the following Direction Groups, according to which University school they wish to enter: Humanities, Sciences, and Economics and Informatics. All students take exams in the end of the school year in order to pass to the next class. At their final year, the students take the Panhellenic exams to enter the University.

**HIGH SCHOOL (VOCATIONAL)**

At the first grade the students, apart from general subjects, have a range of electives such as: Introduction to Line and Architectural Drawing, Introduction to Economics, Seamanship, etc. At the second and third grade the students are divided into the following sectors: Agriculture, Food and Environment, Economics and Management, Construction Works, Built Environment and Architectural Design, Applied Arts, Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Automation, Mechanical Engineering, Maritime Occupations, ICT, Health - Welfare - Well-being. All students take exams in the end of the school year in order to pass to the next class. At their final year, the students take the Panhellenic exams to enter the University.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OTHER TYPES</b></p> <p>Apart from the general schools, there are also other special purpose schools. For example, there are Evening schools for working students who cannot attend day school, and Music schools, where the students are taught musical subjects, learn to play instruments, participate in choirs and give concerts.</p>
<p><b>How to enroll in schools</b></p>	<p>The parents of refugee families who wish to enroll their children at school, should contact the Directory of Education that is nearest to their home. They will specify the best school choice. Education Directorates will guide the parents as to what forms are necessary in order to enroll them at schools. There are Refugee Education Coordinators for students who live in camps, and in certain cases for students who live in urban areas. There are special type of schools, as well as special structures within schools that students from third countries can attend. The parents should contact their nearest Directory to see the availability.</p> <p>A diploma or proof of study, or any relevant document is necessary for all students to enroll to schools.</p> <p>Under exceptional circumstances, students who do not hold sufficient documentation are able to enroll as third country children. This is possible if the children:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. are protected by the Greek State as beneficiaries of international protection and those who are under the protection of the UNHCR United Nations,</li> <li>b. come from areas where the situation is unsettled,</li> <li>c. have applied for asylum,</li> <li>d. are third country nationals residing in Greece, even if their legal residence has not been regulated in this country.</li> </ol>

<p><b>School Calendar</b></p>	<p><b>Main Holidays</b></p> <p>National</p> <p>Ohi day, Day of “No” (28th of October)</p> <p>Independence Day (25th of March)</p> <p>Religious Holidays</p> <p>Christmas holidays (22nd of December 2018, 15 days)</p> <p>Easter holidays (15 days)</p>
<p><b>Useful contacts</b></p>	<p>Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, Andrea Papandreou 37, Marousi, 15180.</p> <p>Call center: 210 344 2000</p> <p>Contact form: <a href="https://www.minedu.gov.gr/epikoinonia/forma-epikoinwnias">https://www.minedu.gov.gr/epikoinonia/forma-epikoinwnias</a></p> <p>Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Central Macedonia, Leoforos Georgikis Sholis 65, Thessaloniki, 57001. Call center: 2310-474810, email: <a href="mailto:kmakedpde@sch.gr">kmakedpde@sch.gr</a></p> <p>Ministry for Migration Policy. General Secretariat for Migration Policy Postal address: Evaggelistrias 2, 105 63 Athens. Front desk: Agiou Dionyssiou 5, 185 45 Pireaus. Main switchboard: +30-213136400 Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat@immigration.gov.gr">secretariat@immigration.gov.gr</a></p> <p>Online information: <a href="https://www.refugee.info/selectors">https://www.refugee.info/selectors</a></p>

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