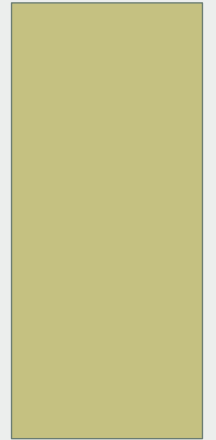




# THE POLISH EDUCATION SYSTEM



# ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION OF

## THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND:

Every person has the right to education,

Education is compulsory until the age of 18,

Education in public schools is free of charge.



# STRUCTURAL REFORM IN 2017

Lower secondary schools will be gradually phased out (the changes will be completed in 2023/24),

Primary school education will be extended from 6 to 8 years,

Learning in general secondary schools will last 4 years instead of 3,

Upper secondary technical schools will have a 5-year curriculum, instead of 4.

# THE EDUCATION REFORM AIM:

The goal is to offer students a solid background of general education required for further personal development and the needs of contemporary labour market.



# STAGES OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

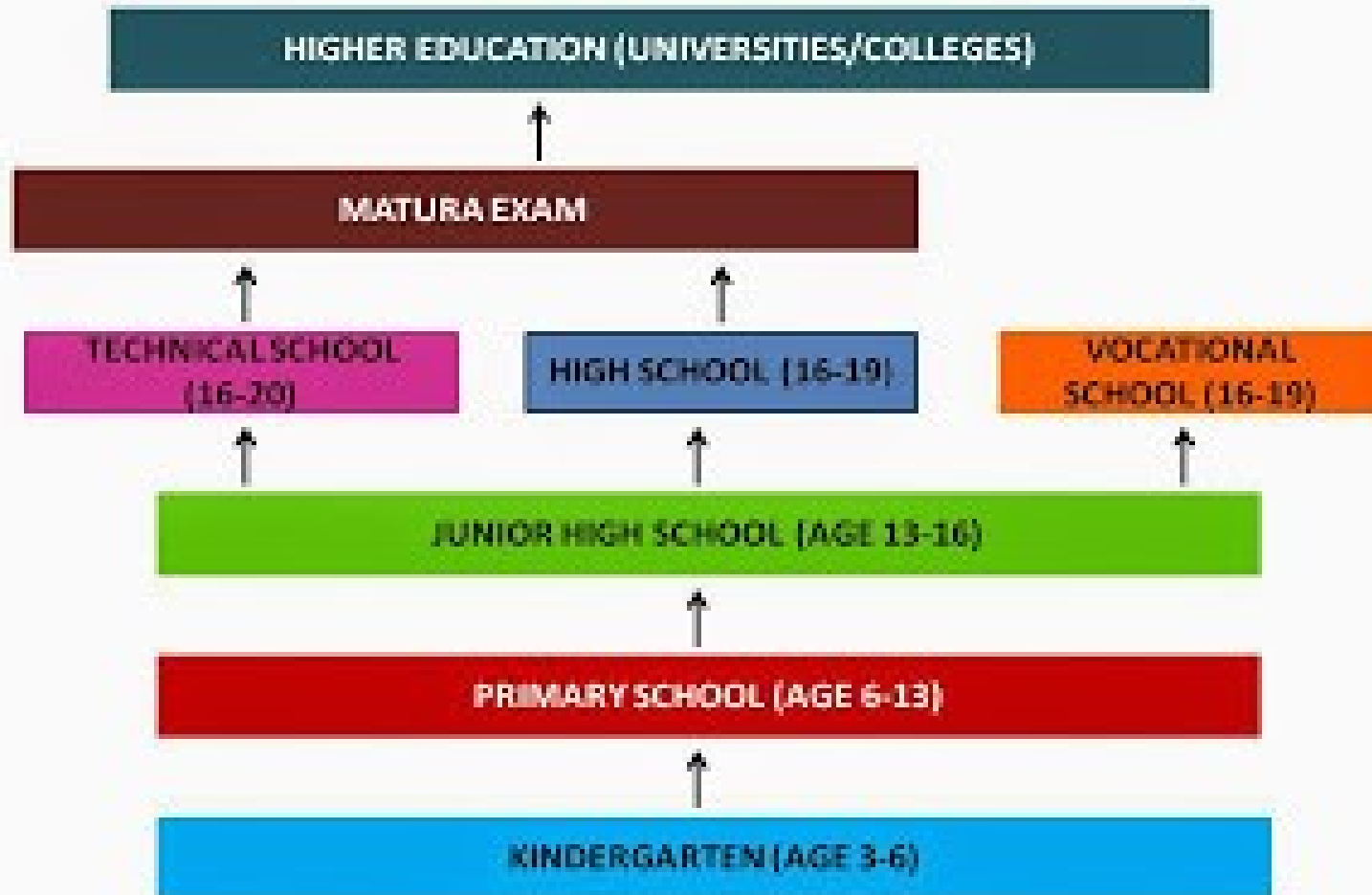
8-year primary education

Upper secondary education:

- 4-year general secondary school
- 5-year technical secondary school
- 3-year sectoral vocational school stage I
- 2-year sectoral vocational school stage II

Higher education

# THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN POLAND



# COMPULSORY EDUCATION

8-year primary school is compulsory for all pupils who are aged 6/7-15.

Starting 2017 the school education will last for 9 years (the last year of pre-school education and 8 years of primary school education).

Parents of 6-year-olds have a choice – they can enroll their children in the 1 grade of primary school or keep them in a pre-school institution.

pre-schools are optional for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children and obligatory for 6-year-olds.

# PRIMARY SCHOOL

General education in the primary school is divided into two stages:

1. Stage I, including grades 1 to 3 and covering early school education,
2. Stage II, including grades 4 to 8.





# STAGE I - EARLY SCHOOL

In the lower grades one teacher teaches all subjects (integrated teaching),

The education aim to support children in their intellectual, emotional, social, ethical, physical and aesthetic development,

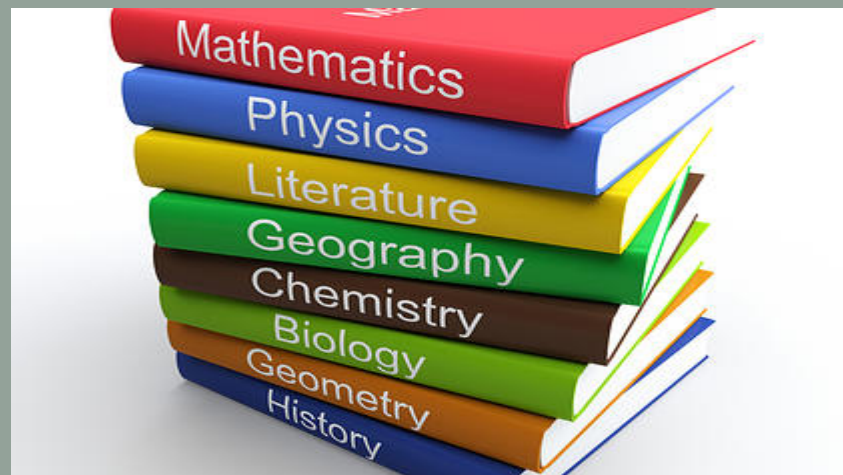
There are no marks. Pupils receive a descriptive assessment for their educational activities and behaviour.



## STAGE II - GRADES 4 TO 8

Each subject has a different teacher and usually pupils change classroom for each subject,

The students learn the Polish language, History, Modern Foreign Language, Mathematics, Natural Science, Music, Art, Technology, Computer Science, Physical Education, Religion/Ethics.



# ASSESSING

In the 4 grade the teachers start to use the marking scale to assess pupils' learning achievements:

## GRADES

In the Polish educational system there are six grades:

Excellent	6	😊
Very good	5	😊
Good	4	😊
Satisfactory	3	:/
Allowing	2	😞
Unsatisfactory	1	😞

# THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS TO BE ACQUIRED IN PRIMARY

## SCHOOLS:

reading,

mathematical thinking,

3. scientific thinking: formulating conclusions based on empirical observation related to nature and society,

4. communication skills in the mother tongue and in a foreign language, including both speaking and writing skills.

# COMPULSORY EXTERNAL EXAM

At the end of the primary education pupils take a compulsory external exam.

The test is obligatory for all pupils and it consists of two parts. The first part is the Polish language and mathematics, and the second – a modern foreign language.- in our school English or German

The test has no selection function. Its results have no influence on admission to secondary school.

The test is intended to provide about the level of pupils' achievements.

# ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL

The school year lasts 9 months.

It starts in the first working day of September and finishes in the end of June.

The school year is divided into two terms.

The first term is from September till the winter holidays, which are scheduled between January and February (depending from the region of Poland). The winter break lasts for two weeks. After the break the second term starts and lasts till the end of June.

Primary and secondary schools in Poland also have Christmas and Easter breaks.

# ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL TIME

Pupils attend school five days a week, from Monday to Friday.

In most public schools lessons start at 8 a.m. and finish at 2 or 3 p.m.

Each lesson lasts 45 minutes. Breaks last at least 10 minutes, but no longer than 20.

Classes are organised by age. PE classes can be conducted in separate groups for different year groups.



# LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Before the reform, the education had been carried out in obligatory 3-year for youth aged 13-16,

Starting 2017 the schools have been gradually eliminated from the system. They will be included in the structure of 8-year primary school,

The students have the external examination at the end of the 3rd year. It tests abilities and knowledge in the fields of humanities and science, as well as foreign language competence,

The results influence admission to upper secondary schools.



# UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION

4-year general secondary school

5-year technical secondary school

stage I 3-year sectoral vocational school

stage II 2-year sectoral vocational school

# GENERAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Provide pupils with general education with the possibility of receiving the graduation certificate.

The last year the students have the final examination called Matura. The exam consists of written and oral parts and it leads to the admission to higher education in Poland and elsewhere.

The exam is not compulsory.

Those who have not taken the Matura examination may continue their education in post - secondary vocational schools.

# CURRICULUM

The students learn the Polish language, two modern foreign languages, Mathematics, History, Knowledge About Society, Geography, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Technology Classes, Information Technology, Safety Education, Physical Education.

# ASSESSMENT

The students' achievements are assessed by the teacher of the given subject. The results are carried out during a school year (single marks) and taken into account in the mid-year and the end-of-term.



# The Matura Examination

The exam takes three compulsory exams at basic level in:

- Polish language
- A selected modern language English, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian – both written and oral
- Mathematics

And at least one subject at extended level.

- These include the above as well as biology, chemistry, geography, social studies, history, history of art, history of music, information technology, physics and astronomy, Latin and Ancient History, philosophy, another modern language, languages of ethnic groups in Poland.

# VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Those who did not take the Matura examination may continue their education in secondary vocational schools, which gives access to higher education.

The main objective of vocational upper-secondary education is to prepare young people for entry into the labour market.

Students of the school take exams confirming vocational qualifications in a given occupation and receive a diploma confirming their qualifications.

# PRACTICAL TRAINING

Practical vocational training may be organised in school laboratories and workshops, in conditions as close as possible to real working conditions,

As a part of practical vocational training, traineeships are obligatory for all occupations at technical and post-secondary level and take place in the enterprises relevant for a given occupation. The period of traineeship lasts from 4 to 12 weeks, depending on the occupation.

# HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education includes degree programmes provided by both public and non-public university-type including:

- first-cycle (Bachelor's degree) programmes,
- second-cycle (Master's degree) programmes,
- long-cycle (Master's degree) programmes.



# HIGHER EDUCATION

Studies are organized in the form of full-time or part-time programmes.

The academic year begins on 1 October and ends at the end of June. It is divided into two semesters. There are two examination periods – in winter and in summer.

# HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

After the first-cycle programmes the students receive the Bachelor's degree, which last 3-4 years,

Holders of the Bachelor's degree can enter second-cycle programmes, which take 1.5-2 years depending on the area of study, and receive the Master's degree.

The Master's degree entitles its holder to practice a given profession and provides access to third-cycle studies and last for 3-4 years.

# DEGREE PROGRAMMES

First-cycle programmes aim to provide knowledge and skills in a specific area of study, preparing students for work in a specific profession

Second-cycle and long-cycle programmes aim to provide specialist knowledge in a specific area of study, preparing students for creative work in a specific profession.

# DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

Third-cycle programmes aim to provide advanced knowledge in a specific area or discipline of science, preparing students for independent research and creative activity and for the award of a doctoral degree.

Doctoral degree holders may continue their research career to obtain first a post-doctoral degree and subsequently the academic title of professor.