

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### Introduction

“State administration in the educational system is provided by heads of schools and school provisions, municipal authorities of municipalities, regional authorities, the Czech School Inspectorate and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and other central institutions.”

“The Czech law gave all schools the status of independent legal entities and thus a higher level of autonomy. School heads were given full responsibility not only for the quality and efficiency of the educational process but gradually also for the financial management of the school, for appointing and dismissing teachers and for relations with the community and the public.”

[http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/struct2/en/CZECH\\_REP.pdf/](http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/struct2/en/CZECH_REP.pdf/)

### Pre-primary education

Age	3 – 6 years
Duration	Max. 3 years
Description	Attendance in the nursery school ( <i>mateřská škola</i> ) is not compulsory. Parents can be asked to pay a maximum of 50% of the running (not educational) costs covered by the community, with the exception of the pre-school year that must be accessible to all free of charge.
Timetable	Nursery schools are usually open 10 to 11 hours a day, and parents can use them according to their needs.
School year and holidays	It is possible to break the service of one school during July and August for at least two weeks. The stay of children in another school can be ensured.
Subjects	Main objectives: the child's development, the basic values on which our society is based, to become independent and able to express itself as an individual in relation to its surroundings.
Exams	Children are not assessed, but their development is evaluated by professionals.
Schools	Administered mainly by municipalities, which also fund them. There are a number of private and denominational nursery schools.

### Primary education

Age	6 – 15 years
Duration	9 years
Description	Children of compulsory school age (6 – 15 years) mostly attend basic schools, which aim is to provide pupils with a general basic education. Pupils can, on their parents' request and if they meet the admission requirements, complete their compulsory education from the sixth or

	<p>eighth at a <i>gymnasium</i>. School attendance is compulsory.</p> <p>The total number of compulsory lessons per week at basic schools must be from 112 to 115 lessons over the 5 years of the 1<sup>st</sup> stage and from 114 to 116 lessons over the 4 years of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage. The maximum number of pupils per class is 30 with exception to multicultural classes and classes with integrated pupils with special needs.</p>
Czech name	Základní škola, Gymnázium
Timetable	Pupils attend school from Monday to Friday. There are no classes at weekends. In addition to morning classes they also have afternoon classes once or twice a week. A lesson lasts 45 minutes.
School year and holidays	The school year begins on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the next year. The main holiday is in July and August. There is a one-week holiday in spring, with other short holidays in the autumn, at Christmas, at Easter and in the end of the first semester.
Subjects	Czech Language, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Local environment, Natural Sciences, National History & Geography, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography, History, Civic Education, Family Education, Music, Art, Practical Subjects, Physical Education and Optional Subjects
Exams	All pupils are assessed continuously in individual subjects and at the end of every semester. There are no final examination at the end of basic school.
Schools	The schools are managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport; the execution of the state administration is on the regional level.

## Secondary education

Age	15 – 19 years
Duration	4 years
Description	<p>Study at the Secondary General Schools (<i>gymnázium</i>) ends with final examination (<i>maturitní zkouška</i>) success in which means that the pupil has completed “full secondary education”(úplné střední vzdělání) (ISCED 3A). <i>Gymnázia</i> may offer 4-year courses for pupils at the age of 15 years (after completing the compulsory school attendance), 6-year courses for pupils at the age of 13 years who ended 7<sup>th</sup> grade or 8-year courses for pupils at the age of 11 years who ended 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The Ministry stipulates a maximum of 30pupils per class.</p> <p>The majority of pupils at the Secondary Technical Schools (<i>střední odborná škola</i>) complete their 4-years studies with the <i>maturitní zkouška</i> and have then completed “full secondary technical education”(ISCED 3A). These schools accept who ended compulsory school attendance (age 15). A special category of secondary technical schools are Conservatoires (<i>konzervatoř</i>) of music, drama or dance. They provide full technical secondary education and tertiary technical education and end with an absolutorium examination.</p>

Czech name	Gymnázium, Střední odborná škola
Timetable	Pupils attend school from Monday to Friday. There are no classes at weekends. Classes are taught in mornings and afternoons. A lesson at <i>gymnasium</i> lasts 45 minutes, practical training lessons at Secondary technical schools last 60 minutes.
School year and holidays	The school year begins on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the next year. The main holiday is in July and August. There is a one-week holiday in spring, with other short holidays in the autumn, at Christmas, at Easter and in the end of the first semester.
Subjects	Czech Language and Literature, Foreign Language 1, Foreign Language 2, Latin, Basic of social sciences, Mathematics, History, Geography, Descriptive Geometry, Chemistry, Physics, Biology/Geology, Information and computer technology, Aesthetic education, Physical Education and Optional Subjects 1 – 4 + at Secondary Technical Schools subjects of technical basic.
Exams	Maturitní zkouška (final examination)
Schools	Public, private and denominational

### Vocational training

Age	15 – 17 (- 19)
Duration	2, 3, 4 years
Description	The secondary vocational schools are obliged to train pupils for a vocational qualification. Two- or three-year training is completed with a final examination and pupils attain “secondary vocational education”, which does not entitle them to enter post-secondary education.
Czech name	Střední odborné učiliště (SOU)
Timetable	The average number of lessons in one week is 33. For theoretical subjects one lesson is 45 minutes; for practical training it is 60 minutes.
School year and holidays	The school year begins on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the next year. The main holiday is in July and August. There is a one-week holiday in spring, with other short holidays in the autumn, at Christmas, at Easter and in the end of the first semester.
Subjects	Basic: Czech Language and Literature, Foreign Language, Civic education, Mathematics, Physics, Computing, Basic of Ecology and Chemistry, Physical Education, Economics, etc. Technology, Practical training and Optional Subjects.
Exams	Final assessment of pupils (závěrečná zkouška)
Schools	Public, private and denominational

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