

## BASIC ORGANIZATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN GREECE

### Introduction

According to the Constitution of Greece, education is a basic mission of the State, aiming at the moral, intellectual, professional and physical education of Greeks, the development of national and religious awareness and the formation of free and responsible citizens.

Moreover, the education procedure –as derives from the way contemporary curricula are drafted– pursues the development of the pupil's personality from all aspects and his/her successful social adoption through the development of cognitive, emotional, mental and psychomotor abilities and skills.

### Pre-Primary Education - Kindergarten

<b>Age</b>	4 – 5 years old
<b>Duration</b>	Until 2 years
<b>Description</b>	Currently, pre-school education is voluntary, but it is gradually made compulsory throughout the country. Kindergartens may have one teacher (7-30 students) or two (31-60 students). Since 1997, the operation of the Oloimero Nipiagogeio (All-day Kindergarten) has been established by law. For the education, care and recreation of pre-school age children except for Nipiagogeia, Demotikoi Paidikoi Stathmoi (Municipal Nursery Schools) operate too, which accept small children from the age of three years till their enrolment in the Demotico scholeio (Primary school). Some of those nursery schools have sections for babies, which accept children from the age of eight months.
<b>Greek name</b>	Nipiagogia
<b>Timetable</b>	From 8:30 until 12:15. For all-day kindergartens, the day starts at 7.45 and ends at 16.00.
<b>School year and holidays</b>	Lessons start on September 11th and end on June 15th of next year at which time souvenirs are given to the children.
<b>Subjects</b>	Especially, curricula for the Nipiagogeio (Kindergarten) aim at the education and mental-motor development of small children, their social, emotional,



	mental, moral and religious development, both on the individual as well as the collective level, their aesthetic improvement and finally the improvement of their motor and mental skills.
<b>Exams</b>	The control and assessment of the child's development by the Kindergarten teacher is based on its participation in the daily activities and on information supplied by the family and others in the general environment.
<b>Schools</b>	Kindergartens are public or private and they operate independently or in association with nursery schools.

## Primary Education – Primary School

<b>Age</b>	6 – 11 years old
<b>Duration</b>	6 years
<b>Description</b>	The objective of Primary school education is to contribute to the all-round, harmonious and balanced development of the pupils' competences in such a way that, irrespective of sex and origin, they can develop into integrated personalities and live creatively. It is obligatory and includes 6 levels (Α', Β', Γ', Δ', Ε', ΣΤ').
<b>Greek name</b>	Demotiko
<b>Timetable</b>	School day starts at 08:15 and ends at 13:30, except for all-day schools where the timetable extends from 07.45 until 16.00. The first two levels include 25 hours per week, whereas the four latter ones include 30 teaching hours per week. The timetable of schools that operate in the afternoon is made up in the same way. Check the analytical timetable and lesson hours in chapters 4.9.2 and 4.10 at: <a href="http://www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/frameset.asp?country=GR&amp;language=EN">http://www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/frameset.asp?country=GR&amp;language=EN</a>
<b>School year and holidays</b>	Lessons begin on September 11 <sup>th</sup> till June 15 <sup>th</sup> of the next year. The school days of every school year are 175 (35 weeks x 5 days). During the school year the holiday regulation lasts four (4) weeks altogether.
<b>Subjects</b>	Religious education, Modern Greek Language, Mathematics, History, Environmental studies, Geography, Physics, Social Studies and Civics, Music and Arts, Physical Education, Foreign language, School life, Olympic culture
<b>Exams</b>	Pupils in Primary School are assessed on the basis of the daily oral examination and participation, of their performance in terms of the assessment criteria in the material taught and of their assignments prepared either at school or at home.  The "descriptive assessment" of pupils in all grades of the Demotiko Scholeio has been established. For more information, see chapter 4.12.3 at <a href="http://www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/frameset.asp?country=GR&amp;language=EN">http://www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/frameset.asp?country=GR&amp;language=EN</a>  All pupils who attended for a period of time longer than half the school year and who meet the assessment terms which demonstrate the degree to which they have acquired the knowledge taught in the grade they are attending, are promoted from one grade to the next, or graduate from Primary School. At the end of every school year, pupils in the first five classes are given a certificate confirming their promotion. For students in the 6 <sup>th</sup>



	grade, a primary school-leaving certificate is issued.
<b>Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public or private</li><li>• Alternative structures: All-day schools, Schools of intercultural education, Foreign-language schools, Schools for minorities, Experimental schools, Schools for Special Educational needs</li></ul>

## Lower Secondary Education

<b>Age</b>	12 – 15 years old
<b>Duration</b>	3 years
<b>Description</b>	Lower Secondary Education, Gymnasio, lasts three years and its grade is divided in classes. Main goal is to promote the all-round development of the pupils according to their abilities at that age and to the corresponding demands of life. In Gymnasio, there is an optional Remedial Teaching Program especially for pupils facing learning difficulties.
<b>Greek name</b>	Gymnasio
<b>Timetable</b>	In day schools, courses start at 8:15 and end at 14:10. In afternoon courses start at 14:15 and end at 20:00. In evening schools, courses start at 19:20 and end at 22:55.
<b>School year and holidays</b>	The school year starts on September 11 <sup>th</sup> and ends on June 30 <sup>th</sup> . During the academic year, there are holidays totally amounting to four (4) weeks.
<b>Subjects</b>	<p>Gymnasio curricula is common for all students and it consists of the following subjects: Religious Education, Ancient Greek Language, Ancient Greek Literature, Modern Greek Language, Modern Greek Literature, History, Civics and Social Studies, English, French or German, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Physics, Physical Education, Music, Arts, Home Economics, Computer Science, Technology.</p> <p>Weekly hours per subject can be found in chapter 5.13.1 at <a href="http://www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/frameset.asp?country=GR&amp;language=EN">http://www.eurydice.org/Eurybase/Application/frameset.asp?country=GR&amp;language=EN</a></p> <p>At the same time, innovative actions have been introduced into the primary and secondary school curriculum, such as Health Education and Consumer Education, Youth Entrepreneurship, Environmental Education, Flexible Zone of Innovative Actions, School Vocational Guidance, Olympic Education.</p>
<b>Exams</b>	<p>The assessment is numerical and descriptive, referring to the pupil's effort, interest, initiatives, and activity as well as to the proficiency acquired in each subject.</p> <p>Pupils are assigned a grade for each subject and for each of the three terms of the school year. These marks as well as the marks in the review examination of the subject (does not apply for all subjects) at the end of the school year determine the annual mark on the subject. The annual mark for subjects constitutes the average of</p>



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	the final mark. Marks are between 1 and 20 with 10 being the base for success.
<b>Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public or private</li><li>• Special school categories: Foreign-language schools, Ecclesiastic education schools, Intercultural education schools, Schools for minorities, Musical schools, Art schools, Athletic schools, Experimental schools, Schools for special educational needs, Second-chance schools</li></ul>

## Upper Secondary Education

Upper Secondary Education is non-compulsory. However, for students who wish to continue to higher education, attendance is obligatory.

### *Eniaio Lykeio*

<b>Age</b>	Over 15 years old.
<b>Duration</b>	3 years (or 4 for evening schools)
<b>Description</b>	<p>There are three grades in Eniaio Lykeio and each grade is divided in classes. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade of Eniaio Lykeio operates as an orientation year with a general knowledge programme. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade includes three directions: Theoretical, Science and Technology. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we have again the directions but Technological direction operates in two courses: i) the Technology and Production course and ii) the Information Science and Services course.</p> <p>In Eniaio Lykeio, there is the Support Teaching Programme. This programme can be attended by those pupils who wish to do so, regardless of their performance.</p> <p>Attendance in Eniaio Lykeio is obligatory for those students who wish to continue their education in a Greek University.</p>
<b>Timetable</b>	In the morning, teaching starts at 8:15 and ends at 14: 10. In the afternoon, courses start at 14:15 and end at 20:00. Evening school is from 19:20 until 22:55.
<b>School year and holidays</b>	The school year starts on September 11 <sup>th</sup> and ends on June 30 <sup>th</sup> . The teaching days of every school year account to 175. During the academic year, there are holidays totally amounting to four (4) weeks. The school year has two four-month terms.
<b>Subjects</b>	In the 1 <sup>st</sup> grade of Eniaio Lykeio, which is an orientation year, general knowledge subjects are taught over a total of thirty (30) hours of weekly teaching, as well as elective subjects, from which the pupil is obliged to select one (1) subject with two (2) hours of weekly teaching. The subjects in the 2 <sup>nd</sup>



	<p>and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of Eniaio Lykeio are divided into two (2) categories: general knowledge subjects and direction subjects.</p> <p>The general knowledge subjects are taught for a total of twenty-four (24) hours a week and a total of sixteen (16) hours a week for each grade respectively. The direction subjects are divided into compulsory subjects for all pupils, for a total of seven (7) hours and twelve (12) hours a week respectively, and elective subjects. Pupils are obliged to select one (1) elective with two (2) hours of weekly teaching.</p> <p>Eniaio Lykeio curricula differentiate are set for the afternoon and evening schools accordingly. For more information, check <a href="http://www.ypepth.gr/el_ec_category91.htm">http://www.ypepth.gr/el_ec_category91.htm</a></p>
<b>Exams</b>	<p>The students in Eniaio Lykeio are assessed based on their participation, on their performance on the written tests, and on the essays that they undertake. Most subjects have written examination at the end of the school year. The grades of each four-month term and the examination grade (when it exists) determine the total grade for each subject. The marking scale on which the pupils' performance is graded is from 0-20 and the marking base is 9.5.</p> <p>Some subjects in the third grade of Eniaio Lykeio are graded at the end of the school year through national examination, where all students compete for the same tests.</p> <p>Promotion and certification depend on the average grade of all subjects and on the adequate attendance of classes. Furthermore, student access to higher education institutions is determined from its results in the national exams.</p>
<b>Schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public and Private</li><li>• Alternate school types: Foreign – language schools, Ecclesiastic education schools, Intercultural education schools, Schools for minorities, Musical schools, Art schools, Athletic schools, Experimental schools, Schools for special educational needs</li></ul>

### ***Technical Vocational Educational Schools***

<b>Age</b>	Over 15 years old
<b>Duration</b>	2 +1 years
<b>Description</b>	Technika Epaggelmatika Ekpaideftiria-TEE (Technical Vocational Educational Schools) are classified as secondary non-compulsory education and offer both day and evening classes. They offer two levels. The first lasts for two (2) years, the second for one (1) year. For the evening classes, one semester is added for the first level and one for the second. These two levels



	<p>are independent and a certificate is granted for both.</p> <p>In TEE, there is a Support Teaching Programme. This programme can be attended by those pupils who wish to do so, regardless of their performance.</p>
<b>Greek name</b>	Τεχνικό Επαγγελματικό Εκπαιδευτήριο-TEE
<b>Timetable</b>	In the morning, teaching starts at 8:15 and ends at 14: 10. In the afternoon, courses start at 14:15 and end at 20:00. Evening school is from 19:20 until 22:55.
<b>School year and holidays</b>	The school year starts on September 11 <sup>th</sup> and ends on June 30 <sup>th</sup> . The teaching days of every school year account to 175. During the academic year, there are holidays totally amounting to four (4) weeks. The school year has two four-month terms.
<b>Subjects</b>	<p>The subjects in the Tehniko Epaggelmatiko Ekpaideftirio-TEE (Technical Vocational Educational School) are distinguished into general knowledge, theoretic vocational education, mixed subjects and two or more subjects with two or more cognitive objects.</p> <p>In the 1<sup>st</sup> grade of the 1<sup>st</sup> level, fourteen (14) hours of general knowledge subjects are taught (Religious Education, Modern Greek Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Physical Education, Foreign Language and Computer Use) and twenty (20) hours of specialisation subjects. The weekly programme covers a total of thirty-four (34) hours of teaching. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of the 1<sup>st</sup> level, there are ten (10) hours of general knowledge subjects (Modern Greek Language, History, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Foreign Language, and Physical Education) and twenty-four (24) hours of specialisation subjects. The weekly programme covers thirty-four (34) teaching hours. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, there are eight (8) hours of general knowledge subjects (Modern Greek Language, Mathematics, Physics, and Computer Applications) and twenty-six (26) hours of specialisation courses, a total of thirty-four (34) hours per week.</p>
<b>Exams</b>	<p>The assessment of pupils in the TEE (Technical Vocational Educational School) is governed by the general principles and philosophy of the similar procedure applied in the Eniaio Lykeio. Furthermore, methods to assess performance of pupils in workshop subjects are applied.</p> <p>For pupils to be promoted and to receive a school-leaving certificate an average general mark of ten (10) is compulsory; this is calculated on the total of the marks for subjects requiring written examinations, after taking into consideration the oral mark.</p> <p>TEE pupils participate in national exams and they are tested on two general knowledge subjects and on one specialization subject, in order to be accepted to higher technical education institutes.</p>
<b>Schools</b>	Technical Vocational Educational School is public and operate either in the morning or in the afternoon. There exists also TEE for special educational needs.



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## Post-Secondary Education

Admission to a state Institouto Epaggelmatikis Katartisis - IEK (Vocational Training Institute) requires a leaving certificate from a Gymnasio (lower secondary school), from a TEE (technical vocational school), from the OAED (Greek Manpower Employment Organisation) apprenticeship school, or from a Lykeio (general upper secondary school). Also, adults with the minimum level of a lower secondary school certificate may be admitted. The procedure for selecting trainees for state IEK takes place twice a year: early in September for the winter semester, and at the end of January for the spring semester.

### *Vocational Training Institutes*

<b>Age</b>	Over 17 years old and over 15 years old for some specialities
<b>Duration</b>	1 or 2 years
<b>Description</b>	Institouta Epaggelmatikis Katartisis-IEK (Vocational Training Institutes) grant a vocational training diploma certifying post-secondary vocational training in a trade. Each Institute may have one or more fields and each field offers a certain number of specialisations.  See also: <a href="http://www.oEEK.gr/index1.html">http://www.oEEK.gr/index1.html</a>
<b>Greek name</b>	Institouto Epaggelmatikis Katartisis-IEK
<b>Timetable</b>	Training in the public IEK is usually held during afternoon hours. Teaching hour for all courses is of forty-five (45) minutes. Workshop courses or the workshop part of mixed courses may continue uninterrupted for up to three (3) hours.
<b>School year and holidays</b>	Each year of training consists of two (2) independent semesters, the winter and the spring semester, each of which contains fourteen (14) full weeks of classes.
<b>Subjects</b>	Training includes theoretical, workshop and mixed courses (i.e. theoretical classes at the same time as the acquiring of skills).
<b>Exams</b>	Trainees are assessed every semester by a test in each subject between the 8th and 10th week of training. At the end of each semester there is a final written examination in every subject. The final mark for each subject is based on the average of the test and the final examination and is on a scale of one (1) to twenty (20).  At the end of the training period, and after having passed the examinations in each subject, the trainees are examined by a special Certification Committee.



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	The certification examinations are common for state and private Institouta Epaggelmatikis Katartisis-IEK (Vocational Training Institutes).
<b>Schools</b>	Public or private