

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Introduction

In accordance with the Education Law in the Slovak Republic, compulsory school attendance is ten years and lasts until the end of the school year in which the pupil attains 16 years. The age of compulsory school attendance starts at the age of 6 years. If the child who has attained the age of 6 is not adequately physically or mentally developed, the appropriate body of state administration postpones the start of compulsory school attendance for this child by one school year.

Primary education is provided by [ZŠ](#) which has two stages, the first stage: grades 1-4, and the second stage: grades 5-9. After successful completion of [ZŠ](#) the pupils continue fulfilling compulsory school attendance in the first grade of secondary school. Education at [ZŠ](#) and secondary schools are free. In other than public schools education may be provided for a fee.

Secondary education is completed generally at the age of 18 by a school-leaving examination (“*maturita*”), in the case of vocational study without a school-leaving examination.

When classifying types of school according to a founder, there are three types of school: public schools, parochial schools and private schools.

Basic art schools also belong to the Slovak education system. There are three levels – from 6 to 18 years of age. Art schools are preferential, not compulsory.

The students’ performances are graded on the following scale: excellent (1), very good (2) good (3), satisfactory (4) and failed (5).

Slovak school system undergoes overall reform. Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic in May 1999 has started to implement “Conceptual framework of education and training in the SR” (Project Millenium) within a horizon of the next 10-15 years.

Pre-primary education

Age	3- 6 year.
Duration	Max. 3 years.
Description	Pre-school establishment can be divided into classes. The inclusion in one class is usually conditional on the same age, but occasionally also of a mixed age. According to the Decree on pre-school establishments the highest number of children in a classroom is determined by age, type of pre-school establishment and type of educational care in the given establishment. Kindergartens run on a half-day or full day basis.
Timetable	From 6 00 – 16.00
School year and	Link to Eurydice:

holidays	http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/Time8/en/SchoolTime2005-2006.pdf In the schools of the Slovak Republic, the school year begins on 1 September and ends on 30 June of the calendar year. According to the number of children, the kindergarten head may, however, interrupt or limit the operation of the establishment based on agreement of the founder and discussing it with parents. During summer holidays the operation is interrupted for three weeks at least.
Subjects	
Exams	None
Schools	State, private.

Primary education

1st stage

Age	6 – 9 year-olds.
Duration	Four years.
Description	The first stage of ZŠ (grades 1 - 4) corresponding to ISCED Level 1. One teacher is usually responsible for one class. Some subjects (e.g., music, craft, physical education, industrial arts) may be taught by the first-stage teachers from parallel classes or second-stage teachers. At the first stage, one teacher may guide a class for four years or he/she specializes in teaching in one grade of the first stage of ZŠ (usually in the first year). The maximum number of pupils per class in grade 1 is 29.
Slovak name	1. stupeň základnej školy
Timetable	7.40/7.50 – 12.20/12.30
School year and holidays	In the schools of the Slovak Republic, the school year begins on 1 September and ends on 30 June of the calendar year. Link to Eurydice: http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/Time8/en/SchoolTime2005-2006.pdf
Subjects	Slovak language, Mathematics, Physical education, Homeland and Nature Study, Work Education, Arts, Music,

2nd stage

Age	10 -15 year
Duration	Five years.
Description	The second stage of ZŠ (grades 5 - 9) corresponding to ISCED, Level 2. The instruction of subjects is conducted by teachers with the required qualification. The teachers have, as a rule, the certification to teach two subjects. The class-teacher, who is appointed by the headmaster, coordinates teaching in the classroom. The highest number of pupils per class in the second stage of ZŠ is 34.
Slovak name	2. stupeň základnej školy
Timetable	7.40/7.50 – 14.10/14.25

School year and holidays	<p>The school year begins on 1 September and ends on 30 June of the calendar year. It consists of the first term and the second term. The first term begins on 1 September and ends on 31 January of the following calendar year. The second term begins on 1 February and ends on 30 June of the current calendar year.</p> <p>The period of school holidays is made up of autumn, Christmas, mid-year, spring, Easter and summer holidays.</p> <p>Autumn holidays last for two days. The Christmas holidays last from 23 December to 2 January of the next calendar year. Mid-year holidays last one day following the end of the first term. Spring holidays last a week. Their beginning is set by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, usually for the period from mid-February to mid-March. Easter holidays last two days. Link to Eurydice</p>
Subjects	Slovak language, Mathematics ,Physical education, Homeland and Nature Study, Work Education, Arts, Music.
Exams	During the year.
Schools	State, parochial.

Secondary education

Age	<p>2 types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eight years “Gymnazium”: 10-18 year-olds - Four years “Gymnazium”: 15-18 year-olds
Duration	Eight and four years.
Description	<p>“Gymnázium” provides general essentials in compulsory subjects with a possibility of differentiated deepening and extension through a wide range of optional and elective subjects. Thus it not only respects a diversity of pupils' interests and a variety of branches of their further studies, but also enables its school-leavers to work in a number of professions immediately after passing the school-leaving examination or after short training. They can make use of their general scope of knowledge, good knowledge of foreign languages, an ability to work with computer technique and communicate with people, as well as their intellectual potential necessary to gain quickly a full qualification.</p>
Slovak name	Gymnázium
Timetable	7.40/7.50 – 14.15/14.20
School year and holidays	<p>The school year begins on 1 September and ends on 30 June of the calendar year. It consists of the first term and the second term. The first term begins on 1 September and ends on 31 January of the following calendar year. The second term begins on 1 February and ends on 30 June of the current calendar year.</p> <p>The period of school holidays consists of autumn, Christmas, mid-year,</p>

	<p>spring, Easter and summer holidays.</p> <p>Autumn holidays last for two days. The Christmas holidays last from 23 December to 2 January of the next calendar year. Mid-year holidays last one day following the end of the first term. Spring holidays last a week. Their beginning is set by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, usually for the period from mid-February to mid-March. Easter holidays last two days. Link to Eurydice: http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/Time8/en/SchoolTime2005-2006.pdf</p>
Subjects	Slovak Language, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, History, Geography, Civics, Natural History, Technical Education, Art and Craft, Music, Physical Education, Ethics/Religious Education.
Exams	School-Leaving Certificate.
Schools	State, private, parochial.

Upper secondary education

Age	15-18 year-olds.
Duration	4 years.
Slovak name	Stredná odborná škola (SOS)
Description	<p>SOŠ gives preparation for pupils mainly for performance of special activities, especially technical-economic, economic, pedagogical, health, social-legal, administrative, artistic and cultural. SOŠ provide complete secondary specialised education with the school-leaving examination and higher vocational education and enable their school-leavers to go directly to practice or apply for study at higher education institutions. The majority of study last four years. There are following types of SOŠ : secondary specialised school, secondary geodetic school, secondary agricultural school, secondary forestry school, secondary horticultural school, secondary wine-and-fruit-growing school, secondary health school, commercial school, commercial academy, hoteliers' academy, social-law school, school of librarian and information studies, secondary pedagogical school, specialised school for girls, school of applied art, conservatoire, dance conservatoire, secondary school of art and specialised schools – for handicapped pupils, police secondary school, military secondary school.</p> <p>Conservatoire is a specific type of SOŠ that provides training for branches of singing, music, dance or drama. It also prepares for study at higher education institution. The conservatoire usually takes six years, in the branch of dance eight years. The study is completed with acquisition of "<i>absolutorium</i>".</p>
Timetable	7.40/7.50 – 14.15/125
School year and holidays	The school year begins on 1 September and ends on 30 June of the calendar year. It consists of the 1st term and the 2nd term. The first term

	<p>begins on 1 September and ends on 31 January of the following calendar year. The second term begins on 1 February and ends on 30 June of the current calendar year.</p> <p>The period of school holidays is made up of autumn, Christmas, mid-year, spring, Easter and summer holidays.</p> <p>Autumn holidays last for two days. The Christmas holidays last from 23 December to 2 January of the next calendar year. Mid-year holidays last one day following the end of the first term. Spring holidays last a week. Their beginning is set by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, usually for the period from mid-February to mid-March. Easter holidays last two days. Link to Eurydice: http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/Time8/en/SchoolTime2005-2006.pdf</p>
Subjects	Slovak language, Foreign Language, Mathematics, special subjects depending on the school.
Exams	Certificate of Final Examination.
Schools	State, private.

Vocational training

Age	15-17 or 18 year-olds.
Duration	
Description	<p>SOU prepares pupils for workers' trades and professional activity corresponding to the specialization of the study and for labor occupations and some technical-economic activities of operational nature. This study is a subject of completing final examinations.</p> <p>It provides pupils with theoretical teaching, practical teaching and out-of-school education. It can also provide only theoretical teaching and out-of-school education, or practical teaching and out-of-school education.</p> <p>Secondary vocational schools are not differentiated according type.</p> <p>The education and training takes place in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two- and three-years' fields of study in which the school-leavers achieve, upon successful passing the final examination, the secondary specialised education and a certificate on education a certificate on apprenticeship, • follow-up two-years' study fields for school-leavers of three-years' study fields; it is completed by a school-leaving examination and the school-leavers receive the secondary specialised education with the school-leaving certificate, • four-years' study fields and their concentrations, in which the study is completed by secondary school-leaving examination and the school-leavers receive secondary specialised education with

	<p>school-leaving examination and secondary school-leaving certificate.</p> <p>The school leavers of secondary vocational schools receive, according to the level of achieved education (final examination) a document on education indicating the level of qualification: 1. Trained, 2. Traded or 3. Apprenticed (Certificate on apprenticeship).</p>
Slovak name	Stredné odborné učilište (SOU)
Timetable	7.40/7.50 – 14.15/125
School year and holidays	<p>The school year begins on 1 September and ends on 30 June of the calendar year. It consists of the first term and the second term. The first term begins on 1 September and ends on 31 January of the following calendar year. The second term begins on 1 February and ends on 30 June of the current calendar year.</p> <p>The period of school holidays is made up of autumn, Christmas, mid-year, spring, Easter and summer holidays.</p> <p>Autumn holidays last for two days. The Christmas holidays last from 23 December to 2 January of the next calendar year. Mid-year holidays last one day following the end of the first term. Spring holidays last a week. Their beginning is set by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, usually for the period from mid-February to mid-March. Easter holidays last two days. Link to Eurydice: http://www.eurydice.org/Documents/Time8/en/SchoolTime2005-2006.pdf</p>
Subjects	Slovak language, Foreign Language, Mathematics, special professional subjects according the school
Exams	Certificate on apprenticeship.
Schools	State.