

Education in Romania

Education is regulated and enforced by the Ministry of National Education. Each step has its own form of organization and is subject to different laws and directives. Since the downfall of the communist regime, the Romanian educational system has been through several reforms.

Kindergarten is optional under the age of six. Compulsory schooling usually starts at age 6, with the "preparatory school year" (*clasa pregătitoare*), which is mandatory in order to enter the first grade. Schooling is compulsory until the tenth grade (which corresponds with the age of sixteen or seventeen). The school educational cycle ends in the twelfth grade, when students graduate the baccalaureate. Higher education is aligned onto the European High Education Area. In addition to the formal system of education, to which was recently added the equivalent private system, there is also a system of tutoring, semi-legal and informal.

Kindergarten (Pre-school)		
Age	Grade	Type
3–4	<i>Grupa mică</i>	optional
4–5	<i>Grupa mijlocie</i>	optional
5–6	<i>Grupa mare</i>	optional
Primary school (Primary School)		
Age	Grade	Type
6–7	<i>Clasa pregătitoare</i>	compulsory
7–8	<i>Clasa I</i>	compulsory
8–9	<i>Clasa II</i>	compulsory
9–10	<i>Clasa III</i>	compulsory
10–11	<i>Clasa IV</i>	compulsory
Gymnasium (Middle school)		
Age	Grade	Type
11–12	<i>Clasa V</i>	compulsory
12–13	<i>Clasa VI</i>	compulsory
13–14	<i>Clasa VII</i>	compulsory
14–15	<i>Clasa VIII</i>	compulsory
Lyceum (Secondary School)		
Age	Grade	Type
15–16	<i>Clasa IX</i>	compulsory
16–17	<i>Clasa X</i>	compulsory
17–18	<i>Clasa XI</i>	optional
18–19	<i>Clasa XII</i>	optional

Kindergarten

Kindergartens offer preschool education for children (usually between ages 3–6) and are optional. Kindergarten typically lasts for 3 forms – "small group" (*grupa mică*) for children aged 3–4, "middle group" (*grupa mijlocie*), for children aged 4–5, and "big group" (*grupa mare*) for children aged 5–6.

The "preparatory school year" (*clasa pregătitoare*) is for children aged 6–7, and since it became compulsory in 2012, it usually takes place at school. The preparatory school year is a requirement in order to enter the first grade, being part of the primary education stage.

Elementary school

Elementary school includes primary school (the preparatory school year and the next 4 grades of primary school) and then four more grades (grades 5–8 of gymnasium). Most elementary schools are public; the Ministry of Education's statistics show less than 2% of elementary school students attend private school. Unless parents choose a school earlier, the future student is automatically enrolled in the school nearest to his or her residence.

Education is free in public schools (including some books and auxiliary materials), but not entirely (some textbooks, notebooks, pencils and uniforms may be required to be purchased).

School starts in the beginning of September and ends in the beginning of June the following year. It is divided into two semesters

(September to December and January to June). There are three holiday seasons 3 weeks in December–January; spring (previously Easter) in April – 2 weeks; and summer, spanning from the 1–20 June to 10–15 September, with an additional free week at the end of October for students in the first 4 years. Additionally, during the week before the spring holiday, special activities (e.g. trips, contests) replace classes. This week is known as *săptămâna altfel*.

Primary school classes are taught by a single teacher (*învățător*) for the most subjects. Additional teachers are assigned only for a few specialized subjects (Foreign Languages, Introduction to Computers, etc.).

In Romania, there are major differences between rural and urban areas with regard to educational opportunities. These begin early on: while the offer of preschool education is quite rich in big cities, including public kindergartens as well as various types of private kindergartens, this is not the case in rural areas. Life in a city school is very different from life in a rural school. Urban schools are much larger, and usually have over 100 or 200 students per year, science labs and well-stocked computer labs, clubs based on different interests (math, film, art or drama), teaching assistants and psychologists, free speech therapy and academic programs for gifted students. By contrast, rural schools are usually tiny, with some, in villages, providing only 4 years education (the rest being offered at a nearby larger village) having only one teacher for all students (generally under 10 students in total) – a situation almost identical to the one existing at the turn of the 20th century.

Most schools follow the tradition of school shifts (originally done for lack of space, but now tradition). Thus, school starts for some groups (usually years I to IV and VIII) at 7:30 or 8:00 and ends at 12:00–14:30, while other groups (years V–VII) start at 11:00–13:30 and end at 17:00–19:30. Normally, a class lasts 50 minutes, followed by a 10-minute break (and sometimes one 20-minute break). From November until March, some schools reduce classes to 45 minutes and breaks to 5 minutes, for fear that 6:30 or 7:30 in the evening is a too

late and a too dangerous hour to leave school during the dark. School days are Monday to Friday.

Schools do not usually serve lunch, although in recent years after-school programs that may include lunch have been introduced. There are also private after-school programs in urban areas.

Based on

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Romania#Overview