**TURKISH EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Turkish education system is under the supervision and control of the state, namely the Ministry of National Education. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, everyone has the right to receive education. Education is compulsory from ages 6 to 14 and free in state schools. The country's primary schools currently have a 98 percent participation rate.   
The academic year in Turkish education institutions generally begins in the mid-September or early October and continues to May or early June. There is also a two-week winter break in February.   
  
**Stages of the Education System**  
  
**Pre-School Education:** Optional kindergarten education, up to 6 years of age.

**Primary Education:** Compulsory and free basic education for eight years (5 years elementary + 3 years secondary), 6-14 years of age.

**Secondary Education:**4 years of High School (Lise), or Vocational High School education, 15-17/18 years of age. Some schools might have an additional year of language study. High schools are mostly owned by the government and provide free education.

**Higher Education:**4 years of University, or 2 years at Higher Vocational Schools. Some schools have an additional year of language study. Under normal circumstances, Master's study lasts 2 years; PhD 3-5 years. This category includes all educational institutions which will provide post-secondary education. They are under the supervision of Higher Educational Council (YOK).

### Education of Children with Disabilities or Learning Difficulties

The fundamental policy is to educate children with disabilities in a way that allows them to interact with other children as much as possible, to support their integration in society. This applies to children with visual, hearing or physicalimpairment as well as children with behavioural, social or learning difficulties. If the disability allows, a child attends regular school classes.

However, depending on the level of their disability, education may take place in special classes.

The **[Ministry of Education](http://www.meb.gov.tr/english/indexeng.htm" \t "_blank)** is responsible for providing children with special needs with education from age 3 to 14. The supervision of education of children with disabilities starts at birth.

**Special educational needs: assessment and diagnosis**

State educational support is provided to children judged to need special education services. Application is made to the Guidance Study Centre in the district of residence; a hospital-issued disability health report is required.

Using varioustests, the Guidance Study Centre evaluates the physicalability, personal development characteristics and the academic competences of the child and provides recommendations on education. It also gives the family guidance and counselling on the care and treatment of a child with special needs.

Documents required to apply for special education:

* Residency certificate
* Writ ten application by the parents to the school administration
* Personal development report of the child (if already registered)
* Child's health report from the hospital