

Romanian Educational System



The Romanian Educational System

- **The Romanian Educational System** is regulated by the Minister of Education Research and Innovation. Each level has its own form of organization and is subject to different legislation.
- Kindergarten is obligatory between 6 and 7 years old.
- Schooling starts at age 7 (sometimes 6), and is compulsory until the 10th grade (which usually corresponds to the age of 18 or 17).
- Since the Romanian Revolution of 1989, the Romanian education system has been in a continuous process of reformation that has been both praised and criticised.

Basic organization

The Romanian Educational System is divided along two main levels:

- 1. Pre-University Level
- 2. Higher education

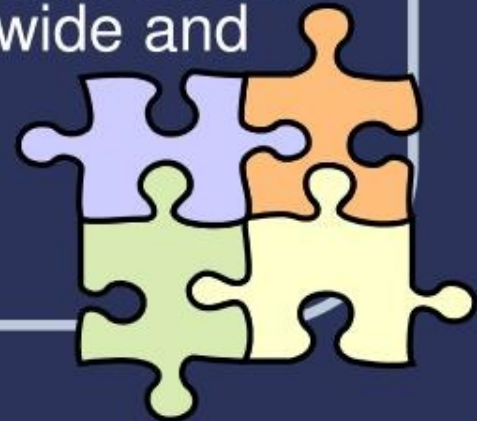


1. Pre-University Level is structured in 4 cycles:

- Kindergarten — composed of three or four grades (*Small group, Middle Group, Big Group and School Preparation Class*)
- Primary school comprises two 4-grade periods:
 - Elementary school — grades I to IV
 - Gymnasium — grades V to VIII
- High school — four or five grades (grades IX to XII/ XIII)
- Vocational education which can continue or supplant High School to prepare students for careers that are based in manual or practical activities)

Compulsory Education

- **Primary school** is compulsory for all eight year olds, from age 7 through 10 being known as "primary education", while age 11 through 14 is known as "gymnasium education". Most elementary schools are part of the public school system.
- Education in Romania is compulsory until the age of 16. In practice, given that most Romanians start school at the age of 6, the first ten years have been made compulsory by the ministry, starting with 2002. The educational system is identical nationwide and very centralized.



Higher education

- Higher education is organized (or in the process of being organized) according to the principles of the Bologna process, which aims at the construction of the European higher education area.

Kindergarten

- Children can start as early as three years old and can stay until they are six or seven years old. Kindergarten is obligatory and typically lasts for 3 or 4 forms –
 - "Small Group" for children aged 3-4,
 - "Middle Group" for children aged 4-5,
 - "Big Group" for children aged 5-6
 - "School Preparation Class" for children aged 6-7.
- Services include initiation in foreign languages (typically English or German), introduction in computer studies, dancing, swimming etc. All kindergartens will provide at least one meal or one snack, some having their own kitchens and their own cooks, others opting for dedicated catering services.



Kindergarten programs

- Most kindergartens offer parents three types of programs, in order to better suit the parents' schedules
 - a short schedule (typically 8 AM to 1 PM, with one snack or meal),
 - a medium schedule (typically 8 AM to 3 PM, with one snack and one meal)
 - a long schedule (typically 8 AM to 5-6 PM, with three snacks and one meal, and almost always including after lunch sleeping periods)

Primary school

- Primary school comprises two 4 - grade periods:
 1. Elementary school — grades I to IV
 2. Gymnasium — grades V to VIII



Elementary school

- The first four years are taught by a single teacher for the most subjects. Additional teachers are assigned only for a few specialized subjects (Foreign Languages, Introduction to Computers, etc.).
- For the first four years a system similar to E-S-N-U is used, known as the “*calificative*”. These are (*FB*) — Excellent, (*B*) — Good, (*S*) — Satisfactory, actually meaning (barely) passing, *Unsufficient* (*N/I*) — Failed.
- Students who get an N/I must take an exam in the summer with a special assembly of teachers, and if the situation is not improved, the student will repeat the whole year.



Gymnasium school

- Classes are reshaped at the end of the 4th grade, based on academic performances. Many schools have special classes (such as intensive English classes or Informatics classes, providing one or two more courses in these subjects). Selection for such classes is done based on local tests.
- Starting with the 5th grade, students have a different teacher for each subject. Furthermore, each class has a teacher designated to be class principal, besides teaching his or her usual subject. Additional counseling may be provided by a special counselor (counselor on educational issues) or by a school psychologist.
- For grade V to XIII, a 1 to 10 grading system is used with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst and 5 is the minimum passing grade.

Curriculum in romanian schools

- The Romanian curriculum is known as highly academic but rigid. There are up to 15 compulsory subjects (usually 8-13) and up to 5 optional subjects (usually 1 or 2). However, unlike in the United Kingdom or France, these optional subjects are chosen by the school and imposed on the student — they are known as School Decided Curriculum and are usually extensions to the compulsory subjects.

Curriculum in primary schools

- At the end of primary school, curriculum starts to become congested. For instance, a 4th grade student (9-10 years of age) may have on a weekly basis

3-4 classes of <u>math</u> 4 classes of <u>Romanian Language</u> 1 class of <u>history</u> 1 class of <u>geography</u> 1-2 classes of <u>science</u> 2 classes of <u>art</u> 1-3 classes of a foreign language (Usually <u>English</u> , <u>French</u> *) 1 of <u>music</u>	1 or 2 classes of <u>Introduction to computers</u> ** 1 class of <u>Civic Education</u> (a subject teaching everything from personal hygiene to the Constitution to manners in society) 1 of <u>religion</u> * (optional; parents can withdraw children from these classes) 2 of <u>physical education</u>
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- *These subjects may or may not have teachers other than the main teacher.
** These subjects almost always have teachers other than the main teacher.

Curriculum in elementary schools

- An 8th grade schedule may contain up to 30-32 hours weekly, or 6 hours daily, thus making it quite intensive, for instance

4 classes of math

4-5 classes of Romanian language

1 (2 in the 8th grade) class of history

2 (1 in the 7th grade) classes of geography

2 (1 in the 8th grade) class of biology

2 classes of introduction to computers

4 classes of a foreign language (2 of French and 2 of English)

2 classes of physics

2 classes of chemistry

1 class of Latin

1 class of art and music

1 class of religion (optional)

1 class of civic education

1 class of technology (may be optional).

2 classes of physical education

For the duration of the elementary school, each student must take:

- 8 years of mathematics, Romanian, music, art and physical education
- 8 years of religion (any belief accepted)
- 6 years of geography and history,
- 7 or 8 years in the first foreign language (usually English, French, or German)
- 3-4 years in the second foreign language (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian or Russian)
- 3 years of Civic education, physics and biology
- 2 years of Chemistry,
- 2 years of IT although in many places this subject can be optionally studied all the 8 years of elementary schools).

The school year

- School starts in the middle of September and ends in the middle of June the following year.
- It is divided into two semesters (September to January and February to June). There are four holiday seasons (Christmas — 2 weeks in December; Inter-Semestrial — 1 week in February; Easter (either Orthodox or Catholic in April or May — 1 week; and Summer or The Great Holiday, spanning from June 18 to September 1), with an additional fifth holiday in November for students in the first 4 years.



The system gives the following diplomas:

- elementary school graduation - no exam

High school admission is computed as an average, taking into account for 50% an average of all the Yearly General Averages starting with year 5 and for the rest of 50% the mark obtained at the Nationals Tests at Romanian Language and Literature, Mathematics and Geography of Romania or History of romanians. The marks are public, lists being placed both in schools and on the [Internet](#).

- high school graduation - after the *Bacalaureat* exam)



Life in elementary schools

- Life in a city school is very different from life in a rural school.
- An urban school will have over 100 or 200 students per year, science labs and well-stocked computer labs, clubs based on different interests, teaching assistants and psychologists, free speech therapy and academic programs for gifted students.
- Whereas 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)

Life in elementary schools

- Transportation to and from school is almost never provided — and in extreme cases, in remote villages, students as young as six must walk up to 10 km to school if there is no bus or train.
- Only starting in 2003 was introduced a rural transportation service (The Yellow School Van with a Little Bell).
- Public transport for all students is in theory free, but, because of a very awkward system, students end up paying half the price for a season ticket. Students also pay half price at all commuter trains operated by CFR.



Life in elementary schools

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



Life in elementary schools

- Teacher-student relations are quite formal, but this formalism has evolved in the past few years to a friendly, but respectful relationship. This is due to the difference of mentality between generations. While elder teachers usually demand respect and are exigent, some younger ones, who better understand what it is like to be in school, are friendly and understanding, rather than strict.



Life in elementary schools

- Teacher-Parent relations are also formal, with teachers calling parents to school only for administrative issues at the beginning of the semester, and for reading the marks at the end of the semester. Those teachers able to break the formalism and reach out to the students are very highly regarded both by officials and by students.



Life in elementary schools

- Some schools have a uniform for the first four grades, either the Ministry standardized issue or one of their own design. Years V-VIII almost never have a school uniform, or any other dress code (but rulebooks provide for basic decency).

