

Information about the Basque Country's educational system

Characteristics of the Basque Country's educational system

The main objective of the educational system is to accompany students in their personal development and equip them with the skills and competencies that will allow them to participate in society as active and responsible citizens.

Education is therefore a key element in achieving personal autonomy and integration in society.

School attendance is obligatory from the age of 6 to 16 and is free of charge from the second cycle of Infant Education (3 years of age).

INFANT Education 1 st cycle	from 0 to 3 years old
INFANT Education 2 nd cycle	from 3 to 6 years old
PRIMARY Education	from 6 to 12 years old
Compulsory Secondary Education	from 12 to 16 years old

More than 90% of children in our region are attending school at the age of 2.

The Basque educational system guarantees the right to education for all children living in the Basque Country, who will be provided with a school place in the area in which they live or in the closest school to where they live if there is no school in their area.



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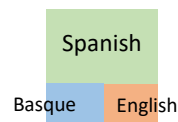
In the Basque Country, students are taught in **Basque** and in **Spanish**. Both are **official languages** in the Basque Autonomous Region.

Each school according to its **Linguistic Project** establishes its working language and the language option that it intends to offer. In all cases, the schools will guarantee that at the end of Basic Education a sufficient knowledge of both official languages will have been achieved.

Information of interest:

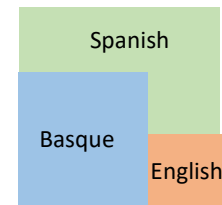
Amongst the 3 year old students enrolled for the school year 2018-2019, **3%** are in Model A, **16%** in Model B and **81%** are in Model D.

Model A (3%)



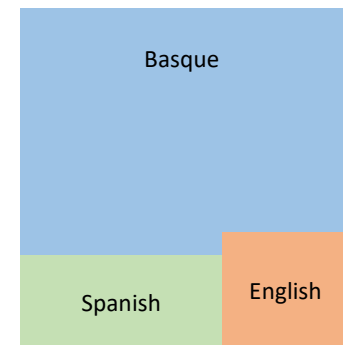
All areas are taught in Spanish except the Basque language subject.

Model B (16%)



Some areas are taught in Basque and others in Spanish (mainly, mathematics and reading and writing).

Model D (81%)



Everything is taught in Basque except the Spanish language subject.

The three options also include the teaching of English from the age of four.

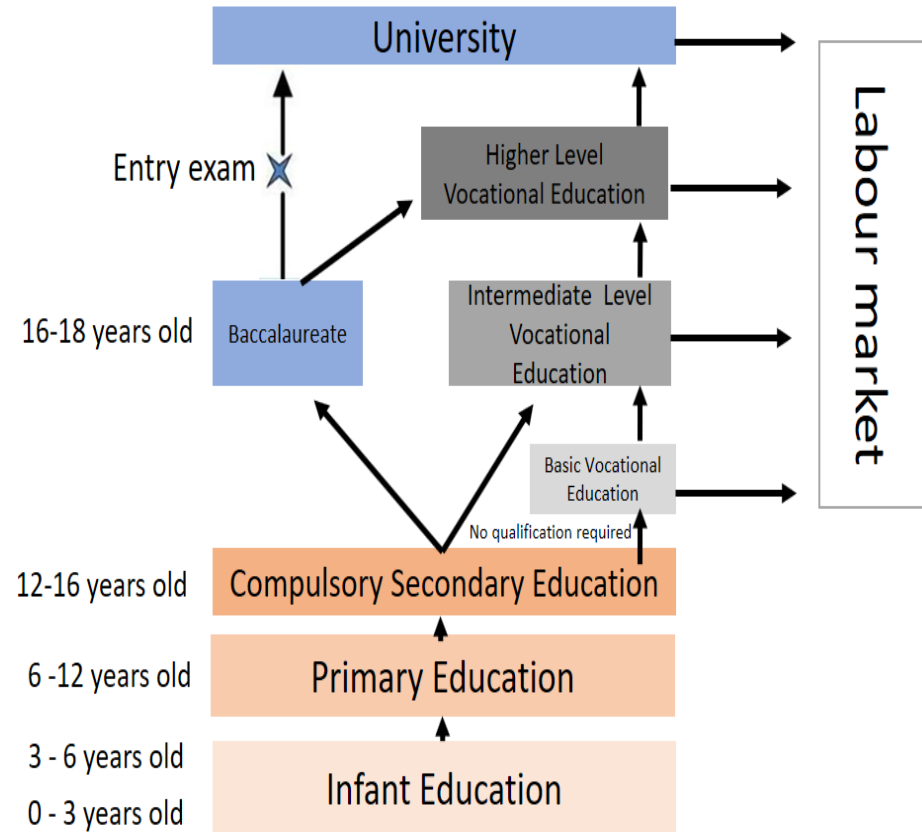
In the regular time limit registration period (February) it is the families who choose the school and language option for their children.

Organigram of the Basque Educational System

The students who pass Compulsory Secondary Education receive the “Compulsory Secondary Education Graduate”, qualification which allows them to study for the Baccalaureate or for Intermediate Level Vocational Education courses.

The students who do not obtain the qualification receive an official certificate recognised at state level.

Students who are 15 years of age and who have done the 3rd year of Compulsory Secondary Education can access vocational training courses within the Basic Vocational Education cycles (two courses in length). They can also from the age of 18 opt for the “Compulsory Secondary Education Graduate” qualification in Adult Education Centres.



Student Registration

Information about registration	Registration process during the regular time limit (normally in February)	Registration process outside the regular time limit
<p>Families can visit the school closest to their home where they will receive information about the steps they have to take to enrol their children.</p> <p>Information on registration is also available in the Department of Education's Territorial Delegations in each province:</p> <div data-bbox="108 768 620 1203"><p>Araba San Prudencio, 18. 01005 Vitoria-Gasteiz Tel: 945 01 72 00 e-mail: huisaregaraba@euskadi.eus</p><p>Gipuzkoa Andia,13. 20004 Donostia-San Sebastián Tel: 943 02 28 50 e-mail: huisgreg@euskadi.eus</p><p>Bizkaia Gran Vía, 85. 49011 Bilbao Tel: 94 403 10 69 e-mail: huisbreg@euskadi.eus</p></div>	<p>The registration process for Primary and Secondary Education usually takes place during the regular time limit of the month of February. A maximum of twelve schools can be chosen in any order of preference</p> <p>Registration can be carried out at the school, at the Department of Education's Territorial Delegations or from any computer; registration can be carried out by registering on the application and then uploading the required documents in digital format: Family Booklet, Municipal Census Registration Certificate, Residence Permit, passport...</p> <p>Once the registration period is over, the provisional list of those admitted is published.</p>	<p>Families who wish to apply outside the regular time limit for registration, can call into any school or the Department of Education's Territorial Delegations. They will just have to fill out the corresponding form.</p> <p>The Territorial Schooling Commission will consider the registration application and will then inform the family as to which school their child may attend.</p>

The students who have passed their country's Compulsory Education can request that their studies be **accredited** in their school of origin if the conditions established in the pertinent international agreements are fulfilled. To do this the students should go to the **State Inspection Authority** of the Government's Representation Department in the Basque Country with the documentation and pay the corresponding fee.



Calendar

The school year begins in September and ends in June.

There are three holiday periods:

Christmas: in December

Holy Week: in March or April

Summer: from the end of June to the beginning of September.

There are also occasional holidays, depending on each establishment's school calendar.

Primary school pupils attend school 5 hours a day, which are divided into two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with a break for lunch.



Timetable

Secondary school pupils attend school 6 hours a day, which are divided into morning sessions and some afternoon sessions. The rest period is included in these hours: break. This timetable is extended if the pupil eats in the school canteen: from the beginning of morning classes until the end of afternoon classes.

Example of a timetable:

	Infant & Primary school	Secondary school
Morning	09:00 - 12:00	09:00 - 13:00
Afternoon	15:00 - 17:00	15:00 - 17:00

Organisation of a teaching institution. Basic vocabulary

The Management team: is made up of those in charge of managing the school (Principal, Head of Studies and Secretary).

Teaching staff: This includes all teachers at the establishment. They make decisions regarding the pupils' education and learning processes.



Tutor: This is the teacher responsible for the pupils of a class. This is usually the person who is in touch with families and reports on the learning process of each pupil in his/her charge.

Association of Mothers and Fathers (AMPA): is made up of families from the school. It usually organises sporting and cultural extracurricular activities for the students as well as other educational activities for parents. Although participation is voluntary, it is very important that families who have recently joined the school get in touch with the AMPA representatives to receive information and whenever possible to collaborate and participate in the activities.

Maximum representation body or school council: This includes the participation of all layers of the educational community: (parents, teachers, pupils and non-teaching staff). It is responsible for deciding the most important aspects of life at the establishment.





Further information

Grants

Although education is free, text books, school equipment and lunch if necessary must be paid. To help families pay for these expenses, every year parents may apply for economic aids, called grants.

The following aids are covered:

Text books and school equipment



Lunch

The call for applications usually takes place in October. Information is available at the establishment where the pupil studies, where these grants must also be processed. However, immigrant pupils who join schools during the school year may apply for grants later.

Lunchroom:

Schools have a lunchroom service. The menu is the same for all students. However, it is possible that other menus can be served in accordance with medical advice or for other reasons.

Extracurricular activities

These are activities that take place at the end of the school day. They are usually fun, sports or cultural activities, organised through the establishment's parents' association, but most of the time a fee is charged for participation in them.

Translation Service:

If required, schools have a simultaneous translation service at their disposal.



