

# Czech-Republic:Single Structure Education (Integrated Primary and Lower Secondary Education)

## Overview of Single Structure (Basic) Education

Basic education covers **primary** (ISCED 1) and **lower-secondary** (ISCED 2) education and takes 9 years which corresponds to 9 years of compulsory schooling (usually from 6 to 15 years of age). After successfully completing the **basic education** programme the pupil acquires a level of basic education.

The overall majority of the population (almost 90%) acquire basic education in a basic school which is divided into: the 1st stage (primary level) years 1 to 5 and the 2nd stage (lower secondary level) years 6 to 9. Some schools do not have all these grades, mostly they cover just primary level (see [Organization of single-structure education](#)). In basic schools preparatory classes can be set up for socially disadvantaged children in the last year before their entrance to compulsory schooling, they correspond to pre-primary level of education (ISCED 0). More information on this issue in [Special education needs provision within mainstream education](#).

11.7% of pupils complete their basic education in the lower stage of eight-year and six-year, so-called **multi-year secondary general schools** (gymnázia), a small number in the lower stage of eight-year conservatoires (corresponding to lower secondary education or its part). (For more information see respective parts of Chapter [Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education](#).) Persons who completed 9 years of compulsory schooling but did not obtain the level of basic education can obtain it in relevant courses (for more information see [General education programmes](#) in Chapter on adult education).

Children are eligible to be enrolled in their catchment basic school, however their parents may also choose a school outside the catchment area. When basic school pupils successfully complete the 5th or 7th year they can be admitted to an eighth-year or six-year general secondary school if they meet selection criteria in an admission process, which can include the entrance examination, if set by the school head. After pupils have successfully completed the 5th year of basic school and passed a aptitude test they can be admitted to an eighth-year conservatoire.

Public basic schools are usually founded by municipalities or a group of municipalities, however, schools can be also established and run by private entities or religious organisations. It is possible to establish a joint institution of a nursery, basic or/and upper secondary school. Basic schools for children with disabilities with specially adjusted educational programmes are usually founded by regions or the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Multi-year general secondary schools or eight-year conservatoires are established mostly by regions. (Information on administration of school establishments can be found in [Czech-Republic:Organisation and Governance](#) which also contains information on private schools).

The school also fulfills **broader educational and social functions**. It provides:

- educational consultancy services (see [Educational support and guidance](#))
- school meals (see [Organization of the education system and of its structure](#))
- after-school activities in school clubs (školní družina and školní klub) which help to develop children's skills and interests (see [Organization of the education system and of its structure](#))

Education in individual art disciplines is provided at primary and lower-secondary levels through **basic art schools** (základní umělecké školy) and is dealt with in part [Organizational variations and alternative structures](#).

## General Objectives

Under the Education Act basic education should lead pupils to acquiring necessary strategies of learning and on this foundation motivate them for life-long learning .It should stimulate creative thinking and problem solving, help children effectively communicate and collaborate, show them how to protect their physical and mental health as well as cultural values and the environment, lead them to being considerate and tolerant to other people and to different cultural and spiritual values. It should make them recognize their own abilities, possibilities and limitations and apply them in accordance with the acquired knowledge and skills when making decisions about their future career path.

More detailed goals are provided in the basic educational document - the Framework Educational Programme for Basic Education (RVP BE) applicable to education in a basic school and at a lower stage of multi-year general secondary schools. Eight-year conservatoires follow an independent Framework Educational Programme, however most goals are common. These programmes serve as a foundation for school educational programmes (SEPs). The objectives in SEPs are concretised. For more information see [Teaching and learning in single structure education](#).

## Specific Legislative Framework

Basic requirements for provision of basic education are stipulated by the Education Act which was passed in September 2004 and became effective on January 1, 2005.

Organisation of basic education, number of pupils per school and classroom, conditions for providing textbooks and learning materials, organization of adult basic education classes, rules for pupils' assessment, examinations of pupils attending basic school abroad and re-sit examinations are governed by the Decree on Basic Education.

Another ministerial Decree regulates basic art education.

Organization of the school year is governed by an independent Decree.

Other binding and recommended provisions defined by the Ministry are published in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

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