

LAW ON PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

Effective from 01.08.2016.

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Chapter One. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section I. Subject matter of the law



Art. 1. (1) This law regulates public relations related to ensuring the right to preschool and school education, as well as the structure, functions, organization, management and financing of the preschool and school education system.

(2) This Act shall apply to school vocational education and training, unless otherwise provided for in the Vocational Education and Training Act .



Art. 2. (1) The system of preschool and school education includes the participants in the educational process and the institutions, as well as the relations and connections between them to achieve the goals of education.

(2) The participants in the educational process are the children, students, teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists, as well as the parents.

(3) The institutions in the system of preschool and school education are kindergartens, schools, personal development support centers and specialized service units.

(4) Participants in the educational process and institutions shall partner with municipalities and other interested parties.

(5) The system under paragraph 1 also includes the training provided by the organizations of Bulgarians living outside the Republic of Bulgaria, registered under the legislation of the respective country for carrying out educational and cultural activities, as well as by other organizations and institutions specified in Chapter Sixteen.

Section II.

Principles in the system of preschool and school education



Art. 3. (1) Education as a process includes training, upbringing and socialization.
(2) Education is a national priority and is implemented in accordance with the following principles:

1. a unified state educational policy to ensure the right to preschool and school education;
2. orientation towards the interest and motivation of the child and the student, towards the age and social changes in his life, as well as towards his ability to apply the acquired competences in practice;
3. equal access to quality education and inclusion of every child and every student;
4. equality and non-discrimination in the provision of preschool and school education;
5. preservation and development of the Bulgarian educational tradition;
6. humanism and tolerance;
7. preservation of cultural diversity and inclusion through the Bulgarian language;
8. innovation and efficiency in pedagogical practices and in the organization of the educational process based on scientific justification and forecasting of the results of innovations;
9. transparency of management and predictability of the development of preschool and school education;
10. autonomy to implement educational policies, self-government and decentralization;
11. engagement of the state, municipalities and non-profit legal entities, employers, parents and other stakeholders and dialogue between them on education issues.



Art. 4. The state shall pursue an educational policy towards Bulgarians living outside the Republic of Bulgaria and ensure conditions for their full integration into the Bulgarian educational system.

Section III.

Objectives of preschool and school education



Art. 5. (1) The main objectives of preschool and school education are:

1. intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual-moral and physical development and support of every child and every student in accordance with their age, needs, abilities and interests;
2. (suppl. - SG, issue 11 of 2023) preservation and affirmation of the Bulgarian national identity and Bulgarian national self-awareness;
3. acquisition of competencies necessary for successful personal and professional realization and active civic life in modern communities;
4. acquiring competencies for applying the principles of sustainable development;
5. early detection of the talents and abilities of every child and student and encouragement of their development and realization;
6. formation of sustainable attitudes and motivation for lifelong learning;
7. acquiring competencies to understand and apply the principles of democracy and the rule of law, human rights and freedoms, and active and responsible civic participation;
8. formation of tolerance and respect for the ethnic, national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of every citizen;
9. forming tolerance and respect for the rights of children, students and people with disabilities;
10. knowledge of national, European and world cultural values and traditions;
11. acquiring competencies to understand global processes, trends and their interrelationships;
12. acquiring competencies to understand and apply the principles, rules, responsibilities and rights that arise from membership in the European Union.

(2) The state shall implement policies to improve the quality of education and prevent early school leaving of students.



Art. 6. The system of preschool and school education provides conditions for:

1. early childhood development and preparation of children for school;
2. acquisition of primary and secondary education and/or professional qualification;
3. validation of competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning.

Section IV.

Right to education. Compulsory pre-school and school education



Art. 7. (1) Everyone has the right to education and may improve their education and qualifications through lifelong learning.

(2) Inclusive education is an integral part of the right to education.



Art. 8. (1) (Amended - SG, issue 82 of 2020) Preschool education is mandatory from the school year beginning in the year the child turns 4 years old, with parents choosing one of the forms under Art. 67 , and the state and municipalities are obliged to ensure conditions for the coverage of children in kindergartens and preschool education groups.

(2) School education is compulsory until the age of 16 and begins with the school year beginning in the year the child turns 7 years old.

(3) School education may also begin from the school year beginning in the year of the child's 6th birthday at the discretion of the parent and upon readiness for school, certified under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for preschool education.

(4) The beginning of school education may be postponed by one school year when the child's health condition does not allow entry into grade I, established in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for preschool education.



Art. 9. (1) Compulsory preschool and school education in state and municipal kindergartens and schools is free of charge for children and students.

(2) School education in state and municipal schools shall be free of charge even after the compulsory school age for:

1. Bulgarian citizens;

2. citizens of another Member State;

3. third-country nationals:

a) (amended - SG, issue 24 of 2018, effective 23.05.2018) with permitted long-term or permanent residence, as well as for their family members;

b) (amended - SG, issue 24 of 2018, effective 23.05.2018) with permitted long-term residence, as well as for their family members;

c) adopted by acts of the Council of Ministers;

d) adopted under an international treaty in which this issue is regulated;

e) for which this is provided for in a special law;

f) (amended - SG, issue 24 of 2018, effective 23.05.2018) seeking or having been granted the right to asylum or international protection.

(3) Minors and underage foreigners seeking or granted international protection under the Asylum and Refugees Act shall be provided with free education and training in state and municipal kindergartens and schools in the Republic of Bulgaria under the conditions and according to the procedure for Bulgarian citizens.

(4) The right to free education is exercised by not paying fees for the training provided with funds from the state budget, and by using the material base for training and for developing the interests and abilities of children and students free of charge. No fees are paid for taking state matriculation exams and state exams for acquiring professional qualification - in theory and practice of the profession for the purpose of acquiring secondary education.

(5) Except in the cases under paragraph 2, third-country nationals who have reached the mandatory school age shall be educated in state and municipal schools against payment of fees in an amount determined by a tariff approved by the Council of Ministers.



Art. 10. (1) For the implementation of compulsory pre-school and school education of children and students, as well as for the school education of students under Art. 9, para. 2 , private kindergartens and private schools may receive state subsidies under the terms and conditions of this law.

(2) The inclusion of private kindergartens and private schools in the state funding system shall be carried out upon their application, made in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for the funding of institutions.

(3) When private kindergartens and private schools receive a state subsidy, they may carry out paid activities only outside those financed by the state.

(4) Private kindergartens and private schools that are included in the state funding system shall provide an opportunity for 20 percent of the children and students admitted there, including children and students with outstanding talents and/or special educational needs, to study the activities under paragraph 3 without payment.

(5) The admission of children and students under the procedure of para. 4 shall be carried out at the beginning of each school year - for kindergartens, and at the beginning of each educational level - for schools, under conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the regulations of the relevant institution.



Art. 11. (1) Preschool and school education in the Republic of Bulgaria is secular.

(2) (Supplemented - SG, issue 34 of 2022, amended - SG, issue 69 of 2024) In the system of preschool and school education, actions related to:

1. the imposition of ideological and/or religious doctrines;
2. the implementation of political and party activities;
3. carrying out propaganda, popularization or incitement in any way, directly or indirectly, of ideas and views related to non-traditional sexual orientation and/or determination of gender identity other than biological.

(3) (New - SG, issue 34 of 2022) In the system of preschool and school education, ideologies, doctrines and systems of views and ideas shall be studied to achieve the goals under Art. 5 , to form national self-esteem, patriotic spirit and patriotism in children and students and in compliance with the state educational standards and curricula.



Art. 12. (1) Every citizen shall exercise his right to education in accordance with his preferences and capabilities in a kindergarten or a school of his choice, unless otherwise provided for in this law and in the by-laws for its implementation.

(2) The election under paragraph 1 for minors shall be made instead of them and on their behalf by their parents, and for minors - by the students with the consent of their parents.

Chapter Two.

LANGUAGE IN THE SYSTEM OF PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL EDUCATION



Art. 13. (1) The official language in the system of preschool and school education is Bulgarian.

(2) Preschool and school education shall be provided in Bulgarian, except for the cases provided for in this law.

(3) In schools where a foreign language is studied intensively, subjects may be studied in a foreign language in accordance with the state educational standard for the curriculum.

(4) In schools that teach in accordance with both the state educational standards and the requirements of another Member State, subjects may be studied in a foreign language, with the exception of the subject Bulgarian Language and Literature.

(5) The study and use of the Bulgarian language in the system of pre-school and school education is the right and obligation of every Bulgarian citizen.

(6) Students for whom Bulgarian is not their mother tongue have the right to study their mother tongue under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of this law and under the care and control of the state.



Art. 14. (1) Children and students in the pre-school and school education system shall be provided with conditions for learning the Bulgarian literary language.

(2) The acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language is mandatory for all children and students who are educated in the system of preschool and school education.

(3) The acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language is associated with requirements for oral and written speech.



Art. 15. The acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language is carried out in the process of preschool and school education through:

1. training in the educational field and in the subject of Bulgarian language and literature;

2. training in other educational fields and subjects in which training is carried out in Bulgarian;
3. the process of communication in the system of preschool and school education.



Art. 16. For children and students for whom Bulgarian is not their mother tongue, additional conditions shall be created for its acquisition in order to support educational integration under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for the acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language.



Art. 17. (1) Children and students of compulsory pre-school and school age residing in the country, regardless of their citizenship, shall be provided with free Bulgarian language education under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for the acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language and in the state educational standard for the financing of institutions.

(2) Students of compulsory school age residing in the country, whose parents are citizens of other Member States and work on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, shall also be provided with education in their mother tongue and culture in cooperation with their countries of origin under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education.

(3) In kindergartens and schools where children and students seeking or granted international protection in the country are educated under the Asylum and Refugees Act, additional Bulgarian language training shall be provided, if necessary, under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for the acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language and in the state educational standard for the financing of institutions.



Art. 18. The acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language is expressed in:

1. mastering and applying the competencies defined by the state educational standard for preschool education in the educational field of Bulgarian Language and Literature;
2. mastering and applying the competencies defined by the state educational standard for general education;
3. compliance with the literary language norms in classes in all subjects, in activities in the various educational areas in which education is carried out in Bulgarian, as well as in interest activities;
4. compliance with literary and linguistic norms in the system of preschool and school education in the communication of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists with children and students.



Art. 19. Teachers are obliged to teach in Bulgarian and to assist children and students in mastering and applying its literary language norms in teaching all subjects, with the exception of Foreign Language, Mother Tongue and subjects that are studied in a foreign language.



Art. 20. (1) The mastery and application of the literary language norms of the Bulgarian language by students is subject to verification and assessment by the teacher in the lessons of the subject Bulgarian Language and Literature.

(2) The degree of mastery of the Bulgarian literary language by students is also established through national external assessments.

(3) Compliance with literary and linguistic norms in the system of preschool and school education is supported and controlled by teachers and other pedagogical specialists.



Art. 21. Cognitive books, textbooks and teaching aids, with the exception of textbooks and teaching aids for the subject Foreign Language, for the subject Mother Tongue and for the subjects studied in a foreign language, shall be compiled in a manner that ensures conditions for mastering the literary-linguistic norms of the Bulgarian language.

Chapter Three.

STATE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS



Art. 22. (1) State educational standards are a set of mandatory requirements for the results in the system of preschool and school education, as well as for the conditions and processes for their achievement.

(2) The state educational standards in the system of preschool and school education are for:

1. preschool education;
2. the acquisition of the Bulgarian literary language;
3. (Effective from 14.11.2015) the curriculum;
4. (Effective from 14.11.2015) general education;
5. profiled training;
6. the acquisition of a professional qualification;
7. inclusive education;
8. civic, health, environmental and intercultural education;
9. assessing students' learning outcomes;
10. the information and documents;
11. institutions;
12. the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers;
13. (Effective from 14.11.2015) educational books, textbooks and teaching aids;
14. the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists;
15. quality management in institutions;
16. inspection of kindergartens and schools;
17. the financing of institutions;
18. labor rationing and remuneration;
19. the organization of activities in school education.

(3) (In force from 14.11.2015) The state educational standards under para. 2, items 3, 4 and 13 shall be adopted by ordinances of the Minister of Education and Science.

(4) The state educational standards under para. 2, items 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 shall be adopted by ordinances of the Minister of Education and Science.

(5) The state educational standard under paragraph 2, item 6 shall be developed under the terms and conditions of the Vocational Education and Training Act .

(6) The state educational standards under para. 2, items 6 and 8 shall be adopted by ordinances of the Minister of Education and Science in coordination with the relevant ministers and heads of departments.

(7) The state educational standards under para. 2, items 7 and 17 shall be adopted by ordinances of the Council of Ministers.

(8) The state educational standard under paragraph 2, item 12 shall be adopted by an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science and the Minister of Health in coordination with the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Minister of Culture and the Chairman of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria.

(9) The state educational standard under paragraph 2, item 18 shall be adopted by an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science in coordination with the Minister of Labor and Social Policy and the Minister of Finance.

(10) The state educational standard under paragraph 2, item 19 shall be adopted by an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science in coordination with the Minister of Youth and Sports and the Minister of Culture.



Art. 23. (1) The State Educational Standards under Art. 22, para. 2, item 1, items 4 - 6 and the National Qualifications Framework shall be synchronized in the part for preschool and school education.

(2) The National Qualifications Framework is developed on the basis of the European Qualifications Framework, is adopted by the Council of Ministers and contains the competences as a result of learning by levels in accordance with the stages and degrees of education.

(3) The National Qualifications Framework aims to support the mobility of citizens by ensuring conditions for transparency of acquired education and qualifications, and to facilitate the recognition of the results of formal education, non-formal training and informal learning.

Chapter Four.

INSTITUTIONS IN THE SYSTEM OF PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

Section I.

Definitions and Statute



Art. 24. (1) The kindergarten is an institution in the system of preschool and school education, in which children from the age of three until their entry into grade I are raised, educated, socialized and trained in accordance with the state educational standard for preschool education.

(2) Under the terms and conditions of this law, children of two years of age may also be admitted to the kindergarten for upbringing, education, socialization and training.

(3) Nursery groups for raising children from 10 months to three years of age may be opened in the kindergarten.

(4) Children enrolled in nursery groups in kindergartens shall be raised, educated, socialized and trained according to standards for early childhood development, adopted by ordinance of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education and Science.



Art. 25. (1) The school is an institution in the system of pre-school and school education, in which students are trained, educated and socialized and conditions are provided for completing a grade and stage and/or for acquiring a degree of education. In the cases specified in this law, the school also provides conditions for acquiring professional qualifications.

(2) The school may also provide compulsory preschool education for children under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the state educational standard for preschool education and the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.



Art. 26. (1) The Center for Support for Personal Development is an institution in the system of preschool and school education, in which activities supporting the inclusion, training and upbringing of children and students, as well as activities for the development of their interests and abilities, are organized.

(2) (Supplemented - SG, issue 27 of 2024) The Personal Development Support Center does not ensure the completion of a grade and stage and the acquisition of a degree of education and/or professional qualification, with the exception of the center for special educational support, which may also provide vocational training for the acquisition of a first degree of professional qualification and/or for the acquisition of a qualification in part of a profession with a first degree of professional qualification.



Art. 27. Specialized service units are institutions for the implementation and promotion of activities related to the implementation of educational policies, including support for the process of inclusive education, as well as the information and technical support of the system of preschool and school education.



Art. 28. (1) Kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers shall carry out their activities based on the principle of autonomy and in accordance with the regulatory acts, such as:

1. determine their own policies for their development in accordance with the laws of the country;
2. regulate their organization and activities in regulations in accordance with this law and the by-laws for its implementation;
3. choose the organization, methods and means of training to ensure quality education;
4. determine their own symbols and rituals in accordance with the principles of national identity and culture, as well as their own uniforms and other distinctive signs;
5. participate in national and international programs and projects supporting activities in the field of education.

(2) The autonomy of schools also includes the right to determine the profiles and professions, as well as to independently choose and compile their own curricula, to distribute the curriculum depending on the needs of the students, to determine the subjects and to develop the curricula in the cases provided for in this law.

(3) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) The autonomy of state and municipal high schools, secondary and specialized schools also includes the right to conclude agreements with state higher education institutions for joint training in subjects and/or modules for acquiring specialized and/or professional training in the second stage of high school, as well as in subjects for acquiring specialized training in the secondary level of education, subject to the requirements of this Act and the Higher Education Act .

(4) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) Under the terms and conditions of this Act and the Higher Education Act, the agreement under paragraph 3 may provide for the teaching of some or all subjects and/or modules for the acquisition of the profiled, professional or specialized school training to be carried out by

persons holding academic positions in the higher school who work in the scientific field corresponding to the subject or module. They shall teach in the school within the established working hours under their employment relationship with the higher school, without being appointed to a teaching position.

(5) (New - SG, issue 34 of 2022) The principle of autonomy may not be violated by carrying out political and party activities in kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.



Article 29. (1) Institutions in the system of preschool and school education are legal entities.

(2) With the exception of private kindergartens and private schools, institutions shall acquire the status of legal entity from the day of promulgation of the act of their opening in the " [State Gazette](#) ", unless otherwise provided therein.

(3) Private kindergartens and private schools acquire the status of a legal entity under the terms and conditions of the Commercial Act , the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act , the Cooperatives Act or the legislation of another member state.



Art. 30. (1) The name of the kindergarten, the school, the personal development support center and the specialized service unit shall be written in the Bulgarian literary language.

(2) The name of the kindergarten, the school, the personal development support center and the specialized service unit must be truthful, not misleading and not detrimental to public order and morality.



Art. 31. (1) The name of the school includes a name and an indication of its type under Art. 38, para. 1 and 2 , Art. 39, para. 2 , Art. 42, para. 3 and Art. 44, para. 1. The name of the school must be publicly acceptable.

(2) The name of private kindergartens and private schools also includes the designation "private", "private".

(3) The name of the school may also include an indication of the main profiles, professions or specialized training in which it provides training.

(4) The name of schools with a Foreign Language profile may also include the designation "language", "language", as well as an indication of the main foreign language in which education is provided.

(5) The name of schools with a Mathematics and/or Natural Sciences profile may also include the designation "mathematical", "mathematical" or "natural sciences", "natural sciences".

(6) The name of the school, declared a school of national importance pursuant to the procedure of Art. 38, para. 9 , may also include the designation "national", "national".



Art. 32. The name of the personal development support center and the specialized service unit shall contain a name and an indication of the subject of activity.



Art. 33. (1) The seat of the kindergarten, the school, the personal development support center and the specialized service unit is the populated place where their management is located.

(2) The official address of the kindergarten, school, personal development support center and specialized service unit is the address where the management of the institution is located. The official address must coincide with the address of one of the buildings in which the educational process or activity is carried out.



Art. 34. (1) Institutions in the system of pre-school and school education shall have their own ordinary seal. Schools, with the exception of primary, private and religious schools, shall also have a seal with the image of the state coat of arms.

(2) The seal with the image of the state coat of arms shall be affixed to the following documents:

1. certificate of primary education;
2. secondary education diploma;
3. certificate of professional qualification;
4. certificate of completion of the second stage of secondary education;
5. certificate of validation of competencies for a basic level of education;
6. certificate of validation of professional qualification;
7. certificate of validation of competencies in a subject not included in the secondary education diploma;

8. (new - SG, issue 23 of 2024) certificate of passing an exam in accordance with the procedure for state matriculation exams for the purposes of applying to a higher education institution.
- (3) A stamp with an image of the state coat of arms shall also be affixed to the annexes and duplicates of the documents under paragraph 2.
- (4) A stamp with the image of the state coat of arms on the documents under paragraph 2, issued by private schools and religious schools, shall be affixed in the relevant regional education departments under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for information and documents.

Section II.

Types of institutions



Article 35. (1) Kindergartens shall be municipal or private.

(2) By way of exception, state kindergartens may also be opened:

1. (amended - SG, issue 98 of 2016) at the Ministry of Defence, which are intended for the upbringing, education, socialization and training of children of military personnel and civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence, the Bulgarian Army and the structures directly subordinate to the Minister of Defence, or
2. by virtue of an international treaty in which this issue is regulated.



Art. 36. Schools are state, municipal, private or religious.



Art. 37. According to the type of training, schools are non-specialized and specialized.



Art. 38. (1) According to the stage or level of education, non-specialized schools are:

1. primary (grades I - IV inclusive);
2. primary (grades I - VII inclusive);
3. high schools (grades VIII - XII inclusive);
4. combined (I - X class inclusive);
5. secondary (grades I - XII inclusive).

(2) According to the content of the training, the high schools under paragraph 1, item 3 are:

1. specialized high schools;
2. vocational high schools.

(3) Under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of this law, specialized high schools with a Mathematics or Natural Sciences profile have the right to provide education in the classes of the junior high school stage of the basic level of education.

(4) Non-specialized schools are municipal, with the exception of vocational high schools, which are state-owned.

(5) Under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of Chapter Eighteen, by order of the Minister of Education and Science upon a proposal of the mayor of the municipality following a decision of the municipal council, vocational high schools may be transformed into municipal high schools when they provide training in professions significant for the sustainable development of the municipality.

(6) Non-specialized schools under para. 1 may be declared innovative schools by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon a proposal from the Minister of Education and Science, subject to compliance with the requirements set out in para. 7 and in the state educational standards under para. 8.

(7) Innovative schools are schools that achieve improvement in the quality of education by:

1. develop and introduce innovative elements regarding the organization and/or content of training;
2. organize management, training and the learning environment in a new or improved way;
3. use new teaching methods;
4. develop educational content, curricula and lesson plans in a new way.

(8) The criteria for determining schools as innovative in accordance with the requirements of this law are regulated in the state educational standard for the curriculum, the state educational standard for general education, the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education and the state educational standard for institutions.

(9) Non-specialized schools under paragraph 1 may be declared schools of national importance by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon a proposal from the Minister of Education and Science.

(10) By the decision under paragraph 9, the municipal non-specialized schools are declared state schools.

(11) If the circumstances for declaring a non-specialized school as national cease to exist, it shall acquire the status of municipal by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon a proposal of the Minister of Education and Science following a decision of the relevant municipal council.

(12) If the circumstances under paragraphs 7 and 8 for declaring a non-specialized school as innovative cease to exist, its status as an innovative school shall be revoked by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon a proposal from the Minister of Education and Science.

(13) The decisions of the Council of Ministers under paragraphs 6, 9, 11 and 12 shall be published in the " State Gazette ".



Art. 39. (1) Specialized schools shall be established for the training of personnel in the fields of sports, arts, culture and for the needs of religious denominations.

(2) Specialized schools are:

1. sports schools (grades V - XII inclusive);
2. schools of culture (grades I - XII, V - XII or VIII - XII inclusive);
3. art schools (I - XII, V - XII grade or VIII - XII grade inclusive);
4. theological schools (grades 8th - 12th inclusive).

(3) Sports schools are state or municipal. State sports schools are those designated according to criteria, under conditions and in accordance with the procedure set out in the Physical Education and Sports Act .

(4) Schools of culture and schools of arts are state-owned.

(5) A specialized school under para. 2, items 1, 2 and 3 may be declared an innovative school under the procedure of art. 38, para. 6 , subject to compliance with the requirements under art. 38, para. 7 and the criteria under art. 38, para. 8 .



Art. 40. (1) Private kindergartens and schools are those that are established by natural persons and/or legal entities as commercial companies, non-profit legal entities or cooperatives or as companies under the legislation of a Member State.

(2) Private kindergartens and schools shall carry out their activities after being entered in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education under the terms and conditions of this law.

(3) Natural persons and/or legal entities may establish private schools under Art. 38, para. 1 and 2 and Art. 39, para. 2, items 1 - 3 .

(4) Private kindergartens and schools may provide training and issue documents for completed pre-school education, respectively for completed grade, stage or level of school education in accordance with both the requirements of this Act and the legislation of another Member State, provided that they have received a permit in accordance with the legislation of that Member State and the training may be conducted in combination with the requirements of the educational system of the State that issued the permit and the state educational standards under Art. 22 .

(5) A private school under para. 1 may be declared an innovative school pursuant to the procedure of art. 38, para. 6, subject to compliance with the requirements under art. 38, para. 7 and the criteria under art. 38, para. 8 .



Art. 41. (1) Theological schools may be opened for the needs of religious denominations.

(2) Religious schools are schools opened at the request of religious institutions, registered under the terms and conditions of the Religions Act . They may educate students who have acquired primary education.



Article 42. (1) Schools shall be day and evening schools.

(2) The schools under Articles 38 , 39 , 44 and 46 shall be opened as day schools. Under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of this law, all forms of education may be organized in them.

(3) Evening schools shall organize evening training for the acquisition of primary and secondary education and/or professional qualification for persons over 16 years of age, and in the cases provided for in this law - also for persons over 14 years of age.

(4) Under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of this law, independent, individual and combined forms of training may be organized in evening schools.



Article 43. The following are also state-owned:

1. special schools;
2. Bulgarian schools abroad;

3. schools attached to places of deprivation of liberty;
4. schools established under an international treaty in which this issue is regulated.



Article 44. (1) Special schools are:

1. for training and support of students with sensory disabilities - hearing or vision impairment;
 2. educational boarding schools;
 3. socio-pedagogical boarding schools.
- (2) The special schools under paragraph 1, item 1 shall have a full-day organization of the school day, meals provided, and if necessary - a dormitory.
- (3) Special schools provide training for completing a grade and for acquiring primary and secondary education. Special schools also provide training for acquiring professional qualifications.
- (4) Specialized training may be provided in the special schools under paragraph 1, item 1.
- (5) In the special schools under para. 1, item 1, pre-school education of children with sensory disabilities - hearing impairment or visual impairment, may also be organized and conducted before their entry into grade 1.
- (6) By way of exception, children who have reached the age of two may also be admitted to the special schools under paragraph 1, item 1 for upbringing, education, socialization and training.
- (7) By way of exception, in the special schools under para. 1, item 1, nursery groups may be opened for the care of children from 10 months to three years of age under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure adopted by the ordinance under art. 24, para. 4 .
- (8) Boarding schools are for the education of students who have committed antisocial acts.
- (9) Socio-pedagogical boarding schools are for the education of students who do not have suitable living conditions in their family, are deprived of parental care and supervision or have committed antisocial acts.



Art. 45. (1) Schools in places of deprivation of liberty shall be opened for the education of persons deprived of liberty under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the Code of Criminal Procedure .

(2) In the schools under paragraph 1, training for acquiring primary and secondary education shall be organized and conducted. Training for acquiring professional qualifications may also be conducted in them.



Article 46. Bulgarian schools abroad shall be established and shall carry out their activities on the territory of another state in accordance with this law and under the terms of international treaties to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party.



Art. 47. (1) All schools shall provide general and extended education.

- (2) The merged schools may also provide vocational training.
- (3) Secondary schools also provide specialized and/or vocational training.
- (4) High schools also provide specialized and/or professional training.



Art. 48. (1) Sports schools provide general education and specialized training in the field of sports, and at the secondary level of education - also professional training in the professional field of "Sports".

- (2) Schools of culture provide general education, specialized training in the field of culture and profiled training.
- (3) Art schools provide general education, specialized training in the field of arts and professional training in the relevant professional fields.
- (4) Theological schools provide general education and specialized training in the relevant religion. Theological schools also provide professional training in the professional field of "Religion" or specialized training.



Art. 49. (1) The personal development support centers, according to their activities, are for:

1. development of interests, abilities, competencies and performance in the fields of science, technology, arts and sports;
2. career guidance and counseling;

3. preventive, diagnostic, rehabilitation, correctional and resocialization work with children and students;
 4. resource support for children and students with special educational needs;
 5. pedagogical and psychological support;
 6. implementation of support and training programs for families of children and students with disabilities.
- (2) Personal development support centers are also the centers for special educational support, established under this law, which carry out:
1. diagnostic, rehabilitation, correctional and therapeutic work with children and students for whom the assessment of the regional center for supporting the process of inclusive education has established that, in accordance with their educational needs, they can be educated in a center for special educational support under the conditions and according to the procedure specified in the state educational standard for inclusive education;
 2. pedagogical and psychological support;
 3. implementation of support and training programs for the families of the children and students under item 1;
 4. (suppl. - SG, issue 27 of 2024) education of children and students under item 1 of compulsory pre-school and school age and vocational training for the acquisition of a first degree of professional qualification and/or for the acquisition of a qualification in part of a profession with a first degree of professional qualification.
- (3) Student dormitories, whose activities are not organized by schools, are also centers for support for personal development.
- (4) Astronomical observatories and planetariums are also centers for support for personal development.
- (5) The structure and activities of astronomical observatories and planetariums, as well as of student dormitories under paragraph 3, shall be regulated by regulations issued by the Minister of Education and Science.
- (6) Personal development support centers may carry out one or more of the activities under para. 1 and 3, with the exception of special educational support centers, which may carry out only the activities under para. 2. Special educational support centers may also carry out the activities under para. 3 if necessary and if there is a material base in accordance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers and with the state educational standard for inclusive education.
- (7) The personal development support centers are municipal, with the exception of the special educational support centers under paragraph 2, which are state and municipal.
- (8) The structure and activities of the personal development support centers shall be regulated by regulations adopted by the relevant municipal council.
- (9) The structure and activities of the centers for special educational support shall be regulated by regulations issued by the Minister of Education and Science.



Art. 50. (1) The specialized service units are for:

1. research and information activities;
2. organizational and/or methodological support;
3. activities related to the qualification of pedagogical specialists;
4. activities for organizing, preparing and conducting internal and external evaluation and for participating in international research related to preschool and school education;
5. activities related to the implementation of the state policy to support the process of inclusive education;
6. international program management activities;
7. activities for the preservation and development of educational work.

(2) Specialized service units may perform one or more of the activities under para. 1, with the exception of the activities under para. 1, item 5.

(3) The activities under paragraph 1, item 5 shall be carried out by specialized service units - regional centers for supporting the process of inclusive education, which shall be established on the territory of each region.

(4) Specialized service units are state-owned.

(5) The structure and activities of the specialized service units shall be regulated by regulations issued by the Minister of Education and Science.



Art. 51. (1) The activities under Art. 50, para. 1, item 1 for the promotion of state policy in the field of preschool and school education and for the development of educational work shall be carried out by the National Publishing House for Education and Science "Az-buki".

(2) The National Publishing House for Education and Science "Az-buki" carries out publishing, information-educational and methodological activities, as well as the activities related to the preparation,

printing and distribution of the scientific and methodological publications of the Ministry of Education and Science and of the newspaper "Az-buki".

(3) The structure and activities of the National Publishing House for Education and Science "Az-buki" shall be regulated by regulations issued by the Minister of Education and Science.



Article 52. (1) State institutions in the system of pre-school and school education shall be financed from the state budget through the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science or another ministry or department.

(2) Municipal institutions in the system of pre-school and school education shall be financed through the budget of the municipalities.

(3) Private institutions in the system of pre-school and school education shall be financed under the terms and conditions of the law under which they were established.

(4) (Amended - SG, issue 108 of 2018, effective 01.01.2019) Theological schools shall be financed under the terms and conditions of the Law on Religious Denominations .

Section III. Central and protected kindergartens and schools



Art. 53. (1) A central kindergarten is a municipal kindergarten located in the nearest settlement on the territory of the municipality or a neighboring municipality, where children of compulsory preschool age from settlements in which there is no kindergarten or school that organizes compulsory preschool education are raised, educated, socialized and educated.

(2) A secondary school is a state or municipal school under Art. 38, para. 1, items 1, 2, 4 and 5 , which educates students from settlements on the territory of the municipality or neighboring municipalities where there is no school.

(3) (Amended - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) For students under paragraph 2 from grades 1 to 7 inclusive, the following shall be provided:

1. full-day organization of the school day;
2. lunch organized in premises in accordance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.

(4) Transportation shall be provided for the children and students under paragraphs 1 and 2.

(5) The central kindergartens and schools are those included in a list adopted by the Council of Ministers upon a proposal from the Minister of Education and Science on the basis of a decision of the relevant municipal councils and published in the " [State Gazette](#) ". The list is updated annually by 1 November.

(6) The criteria for inclusion in the list under paragraph 5 shall be determined by an act of the Council of Ministers, as they guarantee minimization of travel time for children and students and provide conditions for the implementation of the educational process in accordance with the state educational standards.



Art. 54. (1) A protected kindergarten is a kindergarten, the closure of which would lead to a disruption of access to education for children of compulsory preschool age.

(2) A protected school is a school the closure of which would lead to a disruption of access to education.

(3) Protected kindergartens and protected schools may not be closed.

(4) Protected kindergartens and protected schools are those included in a list adopted by the Council of Ministers and published in the " [State Gazette](#) ". The list is updated annually by November 1.

(5) The criteria for determining protected kindergartens and protected schools shall be adopted by an act of the Council of Ministers and shall be related to the objective geographical and demographic factors, the availability of road infrastructure, the distance and capacity of the nearest other school or kindergarten.

(6) A protected kindergarten or a protected school that meets both the criteria for a central kindergarten and a central school shall also be included in the list under Art. 53, para. 5 .

Chapter Five. PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Section I. General provisions



Art. 55. Preschool education lays the foundations for lifelong learning by ensuring the physical, cognitive, linguistic, spiritual-moral, social, emotional and creative development of children, taking into account the importance of play in the process of pedagogical interaction.



Art. 56. (Amended - SG, issue 82 of 2020) (1) Preschool education shall be provided by kindergartens. (2) Compulsory preschool education, in addition to kindergartens, may also be provided by schools that can provide conditions for this, under the terms and conditions of the state educational standard for preschool education and the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers, and for children aged 4 - only when there is no kindergarten in the settlement. (3) By decision of the mayor of the municipality, compulsory preschool education shall be provided only by kindergartens.

Section II. Admission and transfer to kindergarten



Art. 57. (1) Children shall enter kindergarten no earlier than the school year which begins in the year in which they turn three years old. (2) At the discretion of the parent and/or in the absence of a nursery group in the relevant locality and if there are free places, children may enter kindergarten even if they are 2 years old at the beginning of the school year of admission. (3) Children from 10 months to three years of age may be admitted to the nursery groups in the kindergarten. (4) Children are admitted to kindergarten year-round.



Art. 58. Children in state, municipal and private kindergartens may be transferred to other kindergartens throughout the school year, subject to availability of places.



Art. 59. (1) The conditions and procedure for enrollment, de-enrollment and transfer in municipal kindergartens shall be determined by an ordinance of the municipal council, and for state kindergartens - by an act of the relevant financing body. (2) The enrolment and de-enrolment of children in private kindergartens shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the kindergarten and in the training contract.



Art. 60. (1) The number of groups and the number of children in a group in state and municipal kindergartens shall be determined by the kindergarten director after consultation with the pedagogical council in accordance with the state educational standard for the financing of institutions and with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers. (2) The number of groups and the number of children in a group in private kindergartens shall be determined in accordance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers. (3) Free places in the kindergarten are the places within the specified number under paragraphs 1 and 2, which have remained unoccupied after the enrollment of all interested children at a certain point in time.



Art. 61. The provisions of this section shall apply accordingly in cases where compulsory pre-school education is provided by a school.

Section III. Organization of preschool education



- Art. 62.** (1) Preschool education shall be organized in groups according to the age of the children.
(2) Preschool education may also be organized in different age groups.
(3) The formation of the groups under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be determined by the state educational standard for preschool education.
(4) When children of different ethnic backgrounds of the same age are enrolled in kindergarten, their separation into groups under paragraph 1 on the basis of their ethnic background shall not be permitted.



- Article 63.** (1) Preschool education shall be organized in school years.
(2) The school year in preschool education begins on September 15 and lasts 12 months. If September 15 is a holiday, it begins on the first following working day.
(3) The academic year includes academic and non-academic time.



- Art. 64.** (1) The school year shall be from September 15 to May 31 of the following calendar year.
(2) The school year consists of school weeks and school days.
(3) The learning time is organized in pedagogical situations. The number and duration of pedagogical situations are determined by the state educational standard for preschool education.



- Art. 65.** (1) Pedagogical interaction in preschool education shall be organized in basic and additional forms.
(2) The pedagogical situation is a fundamental form of pedagogical interaction.
(3) Additional forms of pedagogical interaction are activities that are organized by the group teacher outside of pedagogical situations according to the needs and interests of the children.



- Art. 66.** During non-school hours, only additional forms of pedagogical interaction shall be conducted.



- Art. 67.** (1) The main forms of pedagogical interaction are carried out in full-day, half-day, hourly or in an independent organization at the choice of the parent under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for preschool education.
(2) The independent organization under paragraph 1 shall be approved following a decision of an expert commission at the regional education department. The commission shall necessarily include a representative of the relevant municipality and of the Social Assistance Agency.



- Art. 68.** (1) In municipal kindergartens, hourly, weekend and seasonal activities may be organized as an additional childcare service at the request of the parents and under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by an ordinance of the municipal council.
(2) In state kindergartens, hourly, weekend and seasonal activities may be organized as an additional childcare service at the request of the parents and under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by an act of the financing authority.



- Art. 68a.** (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) When, due to extraordinary circumstances, the presence in the forms of pedagogical interaction in kindergartens and groups for compulsory preschool education in schools is suspended, following an order of the Minister of Education and Science, the pedagogical interaction shall be carried out, to the extent and if possible, remotely in an electronic environment by using the means of information and communication technologies and with the participation of the parents.

Section IV. Content of Preschool Education



Art. 69. (1) Preschool education creates conditions for the acquisition of a set of competencies - knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the child's successful transition to school education.
(2) The competencies under paragraph 1 shall be determined by the state educational standard for preschool education.



Art. 70. (1) The process of preschool education is subject to the implementation of a program system as part of the strategy for the development of the kindergarten or school that provides compulsory preschool education, and which complies with the requirements of the state educational standard for preschool education.
(2) The program system is a comprehensive concept for the development of the child with approaches and forms of pedagogical interaction, subordinated to a common goal.
(3) State, municipal and private kindergartens may operate on original and innovative program systems in accordance with the state educational standard for preschool education.



Art. 71. Preschool education is provided in the educational areas in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for preschool education.



Article 72. At the end of preschool education, a certificate of compulsory preschool education shall be issued in accordance with the procedure established by the state educational standard for preschool education.

Chapter Six. SCHOOL EDUCATION

Section I.

Types of school education. Levels, stages and types of school education (In force from 14.11.2015)



Art. 73. (1) According to the level, school education is primary and secondary.
(2) The training for acquiring primary education shall be carried out from grade I to grade VII inclusive in two stages, as follows:
1. primary - from grade I to grade IV inclusive, and
2. junior high school - from grade V to grade VII inclusive.
(3) The training for acquiring secondary education shall be carried out from grade VIII to grade XII inclusive in two stages, as follows:
1. first high school - from VIII to X grade inclusive, and
2. second high school - from grade XI to XII inclusive.



Art. 74. (1) According to the preparation, school education is general, specialized and vocational.
(2) General education is implemented at the basic level through training for the acquisition of general and advanced training.
(3) Profiled education is implemented at the secondary level through general education and extended training - in the first high school stage, and through general education and profiled training - in the second high school stage, where it can also be implemented through extended training.
(4) Vocational education is provided at the secondary level - in the first and second stages of secondary education, through general education and vocational training. It may also be supplemented by extended training.

Section II.

School preparation - essence and content (In force from 14.11.2015)



Art. 75. (1) School preparation is a set of competencies - knowledge, skills and attitudes, necessary for the successful transition of the student to the next grade, stage and/or level of education and related to achieving the goals of school education.

(2) According to its content, school training is general, extended, profiled, professional and additional. In specialized schools, the acquisition of specialized training is also ensured.

(3) School preparation is acquired through training in subjects or modules, and additional preparation - also through training or activities in other forms.



Art. 76. (1) In the process of school education, the subject Mother Tongue may be studied.

(2) In the process of school education, the subject Foreign Language may also be studied, in addition to the foreign languages specified in the state educational standard for general education and in the state educational standard for specialized education.

(3) In the process of school education, the subject of Choreography may also be studied.

(4) In the process of school education, religions are studied in historical, philosophical and cultural terms through the educational content of various school subjects. Under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of this law, the subject of Religion may also be studied in the process of school education.

(5) In the process of school education, subjects in the field of global, civic, health and intercultural education, entrepreneurship, personal finance management and programming, protection of the homeland, population and environment, subjects that form national self-esteem, patriotic spirit and patriotism in children and students, by expanding and supplementing content that is present integrated in other subjects, may also be studied.

(6) In special schools for students with sensory disabilities, in addition to the types of training under Art. 75, para. 2, mandatory training in special subjects shall also be provided.

(7) The subjects under paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 shall be studied according to curricula approved by the Minister of Education and Science. The curricula shall also determine the number of teaching hours for their study.

(8) The subjects under paragraph 5 shall be studied according to curricula approved by the school principal. The curricula shall also determine the number of hours of study for them.



Art. 77. (1) General education training covers the following groups of key competencies:

1. competences in the field of the Bulgarian language;
2. communication skills in foreign languages;
3. mathematical competence and basic competences in the field of natural sciences and technology;
4. digital competence;
5. learning skills;
6. social and civic competences;
7. initiative and entrepreneurship;
8. cultural competence and skills for expression through creativity;
9. skills to support sustainable development and a healthy lifestyle and sports.

(2) General education is acquired through the study of general education subjects.

(3) The goals, content and characteristics of general education, as well as the general education subjects under paragraph 2, shall be determined by the state educational standard for general education.



Art. 78. (1) Based on the state educational standard for general education, the Minister of Education and Science shall approve curricula for each general education subject for each grade, which specify the students' competencies as expected learning outcomes.

(2) Exceptions under paragraph 1 shall be allowed for innovative schools, for which the school principal, in accordance with the state educational standard for general education, may approve curricula for one or more general education subjects for the relevant stage.

(3) The curricula for the subject Foreign Language in the two upper secondary stages of secondary education are approved by levels of competence in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.



Art. 79. (1) For students who are educated according to individual curricula, individual curricula shall be approved on the basis of the curricula under Art. 78 .
(2) Individual curricula are approved by the director upon proposal of the personal development support team.
(3) The structure, conditions and procedure for approving individual curricula are determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 80. (1) General education preparation at the basic level of education is the same for all types of schools and is acquired through studying the same general education subjects and with the same number of teaching hours for each of them, determined by the state educational standard for the curriculum.
(2) Exceptions under paragraph 1 shall be allowed for evening, part-time and individual forms of education, as well as for education in sports schools, art schools and schools in places of deprivation of liberty.
(3) Exceptions under paragraph 1 regarding the number of hours in which individual general education subjects are studied are also allowed for innovative schools.



Art. 81. (1) The distribution of general education subjects for acquiring general education preparation in the secondary level of education by grades, as well as the number of teaching hours for studying each of them for each grade and stage of the secondary level, shall be determined in framework curricula, approved depending on the type of education and according to the specificity and form of the training.
(2) The framework curricula under paragraph 1 shall be determined by the state educational standard for the curriculum.
(3) For the acquisition of general education in language high schools, at least three subjects other than the subject Foreign Language in both grades IX and X shall be studied in a foreign language.



Art. 82. (1) Extended training encompasses competencies that develop and improve individual competencies from general education training.
(2) (Amended - SG, issue 17 of 2020) Advanced training shall be acquired through the study of general education subjects under Art. 77, para. 2 , provided for study in the process of school education, as well as subjects under Art. 76, paras. 1 - 5 .
(3) The subjects through which the advanced training is acquired in the specific school are determined by the school curriculum depending on the interests of the students and the capabilities of the school.
(4) The content of the extended training in the respective subject for the respective grade, with the exception of the subjects under Art. 76, paras. 1, 2, 3 and 4 , shall be determined by curricula approved by the school principal.



Art. 83. (1) Profiled training encompasses in-depth competencies in a given profile, defined by the state educational standard for the profiled training.
(2) The profile is a complex of profiling subjects, two of which are determined by the state educational standard under paragraph 1, and the rest are determined by the school with the school curricula and are the same for grades 11 and 12.
(3) The profiles are:

1. foreign languages;
2. humanities;
3. social sciences;
4. economic development;
5. software and hardware sciences;
6. entrepreneurial;
7. mathematical;
8. natural sciences;
9. fine arts;
10. music;
11. physical education and sports.

(4) The profiled training is acquired in the second stage of secondary education through the study of the profiled subjects included in the respective profile.
(5) Each profiled subject consists of mandatory and elective modules. The module is an independent part of the respective profiled subject.
(6) The mandatory modules for each profiled subject are determined by the state educational standard for the profiled preparation.

(7) Based on the state educational standard for the profiled training, the Minister of Education and Science shall approve curricula for the mandatory modules.

(8) Through the elective modules, competencies are acquired, defined in curricula approved by the school director. The curricula may be developed in cooperation with higher education institutions and with representatives of employers and non-profit legal entities.

(9) The goals, content and characteristics of the profiled training, as well as the conditions for determining the profiled subjects, are regulated by the state educational standard for the profiled training.



Art. 84. (1) Vocational training covers competencies necessary for the acquisition of professional qualifications, as well as for the acquisition of legal capacity for professions, the exercise of which requires such, including for the exercise of regulated professions.

(2) Vocational training ensures the achievement of the state educational standard for the acquisition of a qualification in a profession in the two high school stages of secondary education.

(3) Professional training for each profession is general, sectoral, specific and extended and includes training in theory and practice of the profession.

(4) The objectives, content and characteristics of the types of vocational training are defined in the Vocational Education and Training Act .



Art. 85. (1) Additional training covers competencies that meet the interests of students and support the development of their talents.

(2) The subjects, modules and activities through which the additional training is acquired are offered by the school depending on its capabilities, are chosen by the students according to their interests and are determined by the school curricula.

(3) The content of the additional training, with the exception of the subjects under Art. 76, paras. 1, 2, 3 and 4 , shall be determined in curricula approved by the school principal.



Art. 86. (1) Specialized training shall be acquired in specialized schools through training in the field of sports, culture or art, respectively, or through religious instruction.

(2) Specialized training is acquired through the study of specialized subjects, defined in the relevant standard curriculum, approved by the Minister of Education and Science.

(3) The content of the specialized training in the respective specialized subject for each grade is determined in curricula approved by:

1. the Minister of Culture - for the schools of arts and culture;

2. the Minister of Youth and Sports - for sports schools.

(4) The content of the specialized training in the specialized subjects for religious education in the theological schools shall be determined in curricula approved under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the religion in coordination with the Minister of Education and Science.

Section III.

Curriculum (Effective from 14.11.2015)



Art. 87. (1) The curriculum shall allocate the study time between the subjects or modules for acquiring school preparation.

(2) The structure of the curriculum covers three sections:

1. section A - mandatory classes;

2. section B - elective classes;

3. section B - optional classes.

(3) The curriculum of special schools for students with sensory disabilities also includes section D - teaching hours intended for studying special subjects.



Art. 88. (1) In the compulsory school hours, training for the acquisition of general educational preparation shall be provided, and in the vocational high schools and in the vocational training classes - also general vocational preparation.

(2) In sports schools and art schools, training for acquiring specialized training may also be carried out in the mandatory school hours, instead of the subjects Physical Education and Sports, Music or Fine Arts, respectively.

(3) In schools of culture, training for acquiring specialized training in foreign languages other than those specified in the state educational standard for general education may also be carried out in the mandatory classes provided for the subject Foreign Language.

(4) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) In schools of culture, the training for acquiring specialized training in grade VIII may also be carried out in the mandatory classes instead of the subject of history and civilizations. In these cases, the educational content for acquiring general educational training in the subject of history and civilizations, intended to be studied in grade VIII, shall be mandatorily included for study in the elective classes in grade IX.

(5) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) In vocational high schools and in vocational training classes, the mandatory classes in the subjects music and/or fine arts from section A of the curriculum may be used for training for acquiring vocational training in the elective classes in section B of the curriculum, while maintaining the total number of classes in sections A and B.

(6) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) Teaching hours in section A of the curriculum, provided for training for the acquisition of general professional training, may be used for training for the acquisition of sectoral and/or specific professional training in section B of the curriculum, with the subjects for the acquisition of general professional training being provided for study in the elective teaching hours of the school curriculum until the end of the degree in:

1. vocational high schools and vocational training classes;
2. art schools;
3. sports schools.



Art. 89. (1) In the elective classes, training is provided for the acquisition of extended training, profiled training and/or sectoral, specific and extended professional training, as well as specialized training.

(2) The subjects under Art. 76, paras. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 may also be studied in the elective classes .



Art. 90. In the optional classes, training for acquiring additional training is carried out.



Art. 91. (1) The state educational standard for the curriculum determines framework curricula by grades, stages and levels of education depending on the type of education and the specifics and forms of training.

(2) The framework curriculum shall contain:

1. the number of school weeks by grade;
2. the names of the subjects and/or modules included in section A;
3. the annual number of teaching hours assigned to the study of each of the subjects and/or modules included in section A, by grades, stages and levels of education;
4. the total annual number of elective hours in section B;
5. the maximum annual number of optional classes in section B.



Art. 92. (1) In addition to the classes under Art. 87, paras. 2 and 3, the curriculum shall include for each class, for each school week, one class hour for organizing and conducting sports activities, approved by the Minister of Education and Science upon the proposal of the Minister of Youth and Sports, as well as one class hour.

(2) Class time is used for consistent class development, for patriotic education and for building civic competences, including through student self-government.

(3) The organization and conduct of sports activities under paragraph 1 shall be carried out by pedagogical specialists in the field of physical education and sports with professional qualifications as "teacher" or "coach" in a given type of sport.

(4) The training and activities under paragraph 1 may be carried out in a block of hours depending on the issues and the needs of the students in the class.



Art. 93. (1) (Amended - SG, issue 27 of 2024) On the basis of the framework curriculum under Art. 91, para. 2 , the Minister of Education and Science - after coordination on competence with representatives of employers, with the Minister of Youth and Sports or with the Minister of Culture - shall approve standard curricula by professions for professional training.

(2) (Supplemented - SG, issue 27 of 2024) The standard curriculum under paragraph 1 shall determine the subjects or modules of the sectoral and specific professional training and the number of teaching hours determined for their study by classes, stages and levels and according to the levels of professional qualification of the profession.



Art. 94. (1) Each school, based on the relevant framework or standard curriculum, shall develop a school curriculum in accordance with the interests of the students and their capabilities.

(2) The school curriculum shall contain the weekly number of hours in school subjects.

(3) The school curriculum shall be approved by classes for each academic year, except in the cases provided for in the state educational standard for the curriculum.

(4) The school curriculum shall be adopted by the pedagogical council and approved by order of the principal, and may not be changed during the school year.

(5) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) The school curriculum of the school with an agreement under Art. 28, para. 3 shall be coordinated with the higher education institution and shall be adopted and approved in accordance with the procedure of para. 4.



Art. 95. (1) Based on the school curriculum, an individual curriculum shall be developed for students in an individual form of education, as well as, if necessary, for:

1. students with special educational needs who are educated in a day, evening, combined, distance learning form or in a dual education system;

2. students with outstanding talents who are educated in a combined, distance learning form or in a dual education system.

(2) The individual curriculum under paragraph 1 shall be approved by order of the director and its implementation shall be controlled monthly by the regional education department.

(3) The individual curriculum for students with sensory disabilities may also include section D - teaching hours intended for studying special subjects.

(4) The individual curriculum shall be developed for an academic year, except for the cases provided for in the state educational standard for the curriculum.

(5) The individual curriculum may determine the distribution of study time in one or more subjects, which is different from the framework, standard and school curriculum.

(6) The individual curriculum of students with special educational needs may contain only part of the subjects specified in the framework, standard or school curriculum.

(7) For the training in each subject of the individual curriculum, the personal development support team develops an individual curriculum, which is approved by the school principal.

(8) The individual curriculum under paragraph 7 for students with special educational needs shall be developed on the basis of framework requirements set out in the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 96. The structure of the school and individual curricula, as well as the conditions and procedure for their approval, shall be determined by the state educational standard for the curriculum, and of the individual curricula for the students under Art. 95, para. 1 - by the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 97. (1) Everyone has the right to complete a certain grade according to the school curriculum according to which he/she began studying in the same school.

(2) Persons who have interrupted their studies shall continue according to the school curriculum in effect during the school year from which the studies continue.

Section IV. Organizational Forms



Art. 98. (1) School education shall be organized in successive grades.

(2) Classes are designated by Roman numerals in ascending order.

(3) The duration of education in one class is one academic year for all forms of education, except for the cases provided for in this law for the individual and independent form of education.



Art. 99. (1) Students enrolled for study in a given class in a day, combined, evening, part-time, distance learning form or in a dual education system, depending on their number, shall be organized into classes or groups.

(2) Parallels of one class are designated by the letters of the Bulgarian alphabet, which are placed after the class number.

(3) Depending on the specifics of the subject or module, the class may be divided into groups or combined groups may be organized from different classes from the same grade or from different grades.

(4) When students of different ethnicities are enrolled in the same class, their separation into classes based on their ethnic affiliation is not allowed.

(5) The separation into classes or groups of students with special educational needs who are taught in an integrated manner according to an individual curriculum is not allowed.

(6) When students from the same class with different ethnic affiliation are enrolled in places determined by the state or additional admission plan for training in the same profile or in the same profession, their separation into classes on the basis of their ethnic affiliation is not allowed.

(7) Under the terms of this law, individual tuition in a separate subject or module may also be organized for a student from a class.



Art. 100. (1) The conditions and procedure for determining the number of classes in the school, the number of students in them, the division of classes into groups, as well as for organizing individual training for a student from a class shall be determined by the state educational standard for the financing of institutions and in accordance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.

(2) The number of classes in the private school and the number of students in them shall be determined by the school in compliance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.

Section V. Study and non-study time



Art. 101. (1) School education shall be organized in academic years.

(2) The academic year includes academic terms, academic weeks, academic days and academic hours, as well as vacations.

(3) The school year lasts 12 months and begins on September 15, and in sports schools - on September 1. In the event that September 15 or September 1 is a holiday, it begins on the first following working day.

(4) The number of school weeks in an academic year and their distribution by grade are determined by the state educational standard for the curriculum.

(5) The school terms and their duration, the duration of the school week, the duration of the school hours, as well as the vacations are determined by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education.



Art. 102. (1) The organization of the school day shall be half-day and full-day. The State shall create conditions for expanding the possibilities for full-day organization of the school day.

(2) The school organizes a full-day school day for students from grades 1 to 4 at the request of the parents, as well as from grades 5 to 7 at the request of the parents and according to the school's capabilities.

(3) The organization of the school day in sports schools is full-day.

(4) The conditions and procedure for organizing and conducting the half-day and full-day organization of the school day are determined by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education.



Art. 103. (1) The school day includes school hours and breaks between them.

(2) The duration of school hours and the breaks between them are determined by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education.

(3) The total number of compulsory and elective classes per school week may not be less than 22 and greater than 32 classes.

(4) (Amended - SG, issue 17 of 2020) Exceptions under paragraph 3 shall be allowed for:

1. training through work (dual training system), in which the total number of mandatory and elective study hours per school week can reach 40 study hours, which also includes the time for practice at the designated workplace;

2. education in innovative schools;

3. schools with an agreement under Art. 28, para. 3, schools of culture, schools of arts and sports schools, where the total number of compulsory and elective classes per school week may reach 40 classes.

(5) The specific number of mandatory and elective classes by grade is determined by the state educational standard for the curriculum.



Art. 104. (1) For each academic year, the Minister of Education and Science shall determine by order:

1. the beginning and end of the holidays, except for the summer holiday;

2. non-school days;

3. the beginning and end of the second academic term.

(2) The order under paragraph 1 shall be issued no later than two weeks before the beginning of the school year.

(3) For each school year, the directors of the sports schools, in accordance with the order under paragraph 1, the state sports calendar and the school curriculum, shall determine by order the beginning and end of the vacations, the time for training and recovery camps and for industrial practice.



Art. 105. (1) School days may be designated as non-school days or non-school days as school days, by order of the Minister of Education and Science.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 105 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) In the cases under Art. 154, para. 2 and 3 of the Labor Code, the days of absence shall be non-school days for the students.

(3) In case of extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances or on the day of celebration of the municipal holiday, the mayor of the municipality, after notifying the head of the regional education department, may declare up to three school days as non-school days in one school year for schools on the territory of the municipality.

(4) The school principal, following a decision of the pedagogical council, may declare up to three school days in one school year as non-school days, but attendance days, of which he shall notify the head of the regional education department.

(5) Non-school days shall also include days on which the educational process in the school is temporarily suspended pursuant to a mandatory prescription of a competent authority, determined by a regulatory act.

(6) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) When due to extraordinary circumstances the in-person educational process in the school is suspended, as well as in the cases under para. 1, 3 and 5, the days are school days if conditions have been created for distance learning of the students in an electronic environment under the conditions and according to the procedure of art. 115a, para. 1, 4 and 5.

Section VI. Forms of training



Art. 106. (1) The forms of training are:

1. living room;

2. evening;

3. absenteeism;

4. individual;

5. independent;

6. remote;

7. combined;

8. training through work (dual training system).

(2) School education shall be provided in a day or evening form, except in the cases provided for in this section.

(3) A student may not be educated in two or more forms of education simultaneously.



Art. 107. (1) The form of education shall be chosen by the student under the conditions of Art. 12, para. 2 and in compliance with the requirements of this Act.

(2) The form of training is recommended by the personal development support team for:

1. a student under the age of 16 whose age exceeds the age for the relevant class by more than three years;
2. a person over 16 years of age who is entering school for the first time;
3. a person who has interrupted his/her studies for more than three consecutive academic years;
4. a person who cannot successfully complete the same grade for more than three academic years;
5. a student who changes the form of education in the cases under Art. 112, para. 5 ;
6. student with special educational needs.

(3) The recommendation under paragraph 2 shall be prepared after an assessment of the person's training needs and while ensuring protection of the interests of the other students in the class.

(4) In the case of a recommendation under para. 2, which proposes a change from a daily to an individual form of education for a student with special educational needs, the regional team under art. 190, para. 1 shall carry out an additional specialized assessment and express an opinion on confirmation or rejection of the recommendation. The final choice for the form of education shall be made by the student or parent under the conditions of art. 12 .



Art. 108. (1) Daytime, evening and part-time education shall be organized in classes and groups.

(2) The training in the independent and individual form is organized for an individual student.

(3) The combined form of education is organized in classes and groups, and for individual subjects - for an individual student.

(4) Distance learning can be organized in groups of students from the same class or for an individual student.

(5) Training through work (the dual training system) is organized:

1. in classes and/or groups - during school education, and
2. for an individual student or in groups - during practical training in a real work environment.



Art. 109. (1) Only persons who have reached the age of 16 may study in the evening form.

(2) By way of exception, evening schools may also admit persons over the age of 14 who, due to family or social reasons, cannot attend daytime classes.

(3) Evening education is conducted according to a school curriculum developed on the basis of the relevant framework curriculum for evening education.

(4) Evening education for students with special educational needs may also be provided according to an individual curriculum developed on the basis of the relevant framework curriculum for evening education.



Art. 110. (1) Only persons who have reached the age of 16 may study part-time.

(2) The part-time form of education includes classes, independent preparation and taking exams to determine an annual grade in the subjects from the school curriculum.

(3) Part-time education is conducted according to a school curriculum developed on the basis of the relevant framework curriculum for part-time education.



Art. 111. (1) The following may be trained in an individual form:

1. students who, for health reasons, certified by a medical document issued by the relevant expert medical commission, as defined in the Health Act , cannot study in a day, evening or combined form for more than 30 consecutive school days;
2. students who, for family reasons, wish to complete their studies for one or more grades at other times;
3. students with outstanding talents;
4. students with special educational needs under the conditions of Art. 107, para. 4 ;
5. students in the cases under Art. 107, para. 2, items 1 - 4 .

(2) The individual form includes individual lessons and ongoing assessment or exams to determine a term or annual grade.

(3) The training shall be carried out according to an individual curriculum under Article 95 .

(4) Individual lessons shall be held at the school. In the cases under para. 1, item 1, when the student cannot attend school, the lessons shall be organized at home or in a hospital, and in the cases under para. 1, item 4 - also in a personal development support center.

(5) At the discretion of the regional center for supporting the process of inclusive education and the attending physician and after consultation with the parent, when a student is hospitalized, the instruction in individual lessons shall be carried out by:

1. hospital teachers assigned to a school and/or a personal development support center; the school and the personal development support center are determined by the head of the regional education department in the district where the hospital is located;
2. the school and/or personal development support center where the student is educated - when they are in the same locality as the hospital;
3. a school and/or a center for support for personal development, except in the cases under item 2, determined by the head of the regional education department on the territory of the district in which the hospital is located.



Art. 112. (1) The following may be taught in an independent form:

1. students of compulsory school age who, for health reasons, certified by a medical document issued by the relevant expert medical commission, specified in the Health Act , cannot be educated in a full-time form;
2. students of compulsory school age - at the request of the student or parent, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 12, paragraph 2 ;
3. students with outstanding talents;
4. persons over 16 years of age.

(2) An independent form of education may not be organized for students under Art. 49, para. 2, item 1 .

(3) The independent form includes independent preparation and exams for determining annual grades in the subjects from the school curriculum.

(4) In the case of an independent form of education, the school curriculum for day or evening form shall apply.

(5) Students under para. 1, item 2, who are educated in an independent form at the request of their parents and do not achieve the necessary competencies in the relevant class, shall continue their education, subject to the requirements of this law, in another form of education under art. 106 , recommended by the personal development support team.

(6) The independent form of training for students under paragraph 1, item 2 shall be organized following a decision of an expert commission established at the regional education department.

(7) The implementation and organization of the independent form of education for students under paragraph 1, item 2, in accordance with the requirements of this law, shall be monitored during each academic term by the expert commission at the regional education department under paragraph 6. A representative of the Social Assistance Agency shall be mandatory in the commission.



Art. 113. (1) A distance learning form may be organized for education in grades V to XII inclusive for:

1. students who, for health reasons, certified by a medical document issued by the relevant expert medical commission, as defined in the Health Act , cannot study in a full-time form;
2. students with special educational needs;
3. students with outstanding talents;
4. students who, due to family reasons, reside permanently in the territory of another country and cannot attend school on its territory.

(2) Exceptionally, when the student is receiving treatment abroad for a period of more than 30 days, a distance learning form may be organized for education in grades I to IV inclusive.

(3) Training for the acquisition of professional education cannot be organized in a distance learning format.

(4) Distance learning is conducted according to a school curriculum developed on the basis of the relevant framework curriculum for distance learning.

(5) Distance learning under paragraph 4 for students with special educational needs and for students with outstanding talents may also be carried out according to an individual curriculum developed on the basis of the relevant framework curriculum for distance learning.

(6) The distance learning form is implemented through the means of modern information and communication technologies and includes distance learning classes, self-study, ongoing feedback on the results of the training and in-person exams for determining term or annual grades in the subjects from the school curriculum.

(7) A distance learning form may be organized by a school that has the necessary technical and technological conditions in accordance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers. For distance learning, the student independently provides the necessary technical and technological means.



Art. 114. (1) A combined form of education includes education under the conditions and according to the procedure of a full-time form and individual education in one or several subjects from the school or individual curriculum.

(2) Combined education is carried out according to the school curriculum or according to an individual curriculum - for students with special educational needs and for students with outstanding talents.

(3) A combined form of training may be organized for:

1. a student with special educational needs;
2. a student with outstanding talents;
3. a student in the classes of the basic level of education, transferred to a school in which the foreign language that the student studied before his transfer is not taught, provided that there is no school of the same type in the locality in which this language is taught;
4. a student in grade VII transferred to a school that does not study a subject from the extended preparation that the student studied before his transfer, if the transfer takes place after the beginning of the second academic term.

(4) In the cases under para. 3, items 3 and 4, instead of the foreign language or the relevant subject of the extended training, provided for in the school curriculum, individual training shall be organized in the foreign language or in the subject that the student studied before his/her transfer. The individual training shall be carried out by another school - in accordance with the procedure of art. 113, para. 4, 6 and 7, or by the receiving school - in accordance with the procedure of art. 112, para. 3 and 4.

(5) In the cases under para. 3, item 1, individual training may be carried out in one or several subjects. Individual training shall be carried out by the school - in accordance with the procedure of art. 111, para. 2 - 5, or by another school - in accordance with the procedure of art. 113, para. 4, 6 and 7.

(6) In the cases under para. 3, item 2, individual training shall be carried out in one or several subjects in which the student has shown lasting abilities and achievements exceeding the achievements of his peers. Individual training shall be carried out by the school in accordance with the procedure laid down in art. 111, para. 2 - 5.



Art. 115. (1) Training through work (the dual training system) is a specific form of training in which professional qualification is acquired through:

1. practical training in a real work environment, and
2. (amended - SG, issue 92 of 2018) education in a school under paragraph 2.

(2) (Supplemented - SG, issue 92 of 2018) Training through work (the dual training system) may be organized by a vocational high school, an art school, a sports school, a special school - an educational boarding school and a socio-pedagogical boarding school, or by a secondary school, a specialized high school or a theological school, when they provide professional training, on the basis of a partnership between one or several employers.

(3) Training through work (dual training system) is organized in the second stage of upper secondary education for students who have reached the age of 16.



Art. 115a. (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) (1) When due to extraordinary circumstances the in-person educational process in the school is suspended, as well as in the cases under Art. 105, paras. 1, 3 and 5, with the exception of the declaration of a day for the celebration of the municipal holiday, following an order of the Minister of Education and Science, the education of students enrolled in day, evening, part-time, individual and combined forms of education and in a dual education system shall be carried out, to the extent and if possible, remotely in an electronic environment by using the means of information and communication technologies.

(2) In innovative schools, as an element of innovation in terms of the organization, related to improving the quality and increasing the results of the education, it is allowed to allow the presence of education in the school for students from grades V to XII in a day, evening, combined or part-time form, as well as under Art. 108, para. 5, item 1 to be combined with synchronous distance learning in an electronic environment, but for no more than 20 percent of the mandatory and/or elective classes in one or more subjects for which this is applicable.

(3) At the student's choice under the conditions of Art. 12, para. 2 and following an order of the school principal, subject to the availability of the necessary technical and technological means, distance learning in an electronic environment for no more than 30 school days may also be provided for a student enrolled in a day, evening, part-time, individual or combined form of education, as well as in a dual education system, who, for health or other valid reasons, certified by a document, cannot attend school.

(4) In the event of a declared emergency epidemic situation, when the in-person educational process in the school has not been suspended, and with the necessary technical and technological means, daily,

individual or combined distance learning in an electronic environment may be carried out for an individual student for more than 30 school days until the end of the emergency epidemic situation:

1. if, due to health reasons, certified by a medical document, the student's presence at school puts his life or health at risk;
2. if, due to health reasons, certified by a medical document, the student's presence at school puts at risk the life or health of persons with whom he lives at the same address;
3. at the choice of the student or parent under the conditions of Art. 12, para. 2 and after permission of the head of the regional education department.

(5) In the cases under para. 4, items 1 - 3, when the school cannot ensure the conduct of distance learning classes, opportunities for distance learning in an electronic environment may be provided by another school, designated by the regional education department, which offers such training or organizes a distance form of training.

(6) Distance learning in an electronic environment includes distance learning classes, self-study, ongoing feedback on learning outcomes and assessment.

(7) Distance learning in an electronic environment is carried out by teachers within the agreed duration of their working hours, with the fulfillment of the teaching work norm being regulated in the state educational standard for the norming and remuneration of labor.



Art. 116. (1) (Supplemented - SG, issue 82 of 2020) The organization of training in day, evening, part-time, individual, independent, distance and combined forms of training, as well as distance learning in an electronic environment and the conditions and procedure for transition from one form of training to another shall be regulated by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education, and training through work (the dual training system) shall be organized and implemented under the conditions and procedure specified in the Vocational Education and Training Act .

(2) Assessment in the various forms of education shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the state educational standard for the assessment of students' learning outcomes.

Section VII. Assessing student learning outcomes



Art. 117. (1) Assessment is a process of establishing and measuring the achieved learning outcomes and the level of preparedness of students for their future realization.

(2) The main objectives of the assessment are:

1. diagnostics of the student's individual achievements and progress and determination of his learning needs and the areas in which he needs support;
2. monitoring the educational process for the implementation of policies and measures aimed at improving the quality of education.

(3) Assessment is carried out:

1. in the learning process;
2. at the end of a grade or stage of a level of education;
3. upon completion of a degree.



Art. 118. (1) Assessment shall be carried out through ongoing tests and examinations.

(2) Current examinations are carried out in the learning process, some of them being based on projects. They are a tool for feedback and motivation for learning. As a result of current examinations, current grades and a number of points are set, on the basis of which term or annual grades are formed.

(3) The assessment is an indicator of the extent to which the competencies achieved by students as a result of the training correspond to those defined by the state educational standard for general education, the state educational standard for specialized training and/or the state educational standard for the acquisition of a qualification in a profession and/or the curriculum for the relevant subject or module for the relevant grade.

(4) For students with special educational needs who are educated according to an individual curriculum, the assessment is an indicator of the extent to which the competencies set out in it have been achieved.

(5) No grades shall be given for the subjects, modules or activities provided for study in the optional classes of the school curriculum, with the exception of sports schools, during the teaching in the classes under Art. 92, para. 1 , as well as for the special subjects for students with sensory disabilities.

(6) The exams are:

1. equivalent;
2. for determining a term or annual assessment in a subject;
3. to change the assessment;
4. to establish the degree of achievement of the competencies defined in the curriculum for a subject for a particular grade;
5. to establish the degree of achievement of the competencies defined by the state educational standard for general education, by the state educational standard for specialized training for a certain stage of the level of education and/or by the state educational standard for acquiring a qualification in a profession;
6. state matriculation exams.



Art. 119. (1) Depending on the evaluator, the evaluation may be:

1. internal - when the assessment is set by the teaching teacher;
2. external - when the assessment is made by a committee or by a person other than the teaching teacher.

(2) Depending on its organization and scope, assessment in the process of school education may be:

1. national - covers students from one grade throughout the country;
2. regional - covers students from one class within one or several districts;
3. school - covers students from one class within a separate school;
4. group - covers some or all students from one or more classes;
5. individual - for an individual student.

(3) At the end of grades IV, VII and X, a national external assessment is conducted to establish the degree of achievement of the competencies for the respective stage, as defined by the state educational standard for general education.

(4) The Ministry of Education and Science shall introduce a mechanism for publicity, transparency and annual analysis of the results of national external evaluations, which shall be used to develop policies and measures to ensure sustainable improvement of the quality of education.

(5) The format of the national external assessment under paragraph 3, the subjects in which it is carried out, as well as the terms and conditions for its organization and conduct shall be determined by the state educational standard for the assessment of students' learning outcomes.



Art. 120. (1) The assessment shall contain a qualitative and quantitative indicator.

(2) The grades that can be given are "excellent (6)", "very good (5)", "good (4)", "average (3)", "poor (2)".

(3) In cases where the quantitative indicator is not determined as a whole number, the qualitative indicator is determined under the conditions of the state educational standard for the assessment of students' learning outcomes.

(4) When other quantitative indicators are used, they shall be equated to the estimates under paragraph 2.

(5) The grades from the national external assessment at the end of the 7th and 10th grades, as well as from the state matriculation exams and from the state exam for acquiring professional qualification may be expressed only in quantitative indicators - in the number of points, without being equated to the grades under para. 2.

(6) Students from grades I to III inclusive are not given quantitative grades.

(7) Students with special educational needs who are educated according to an individual curriculum shall be given grades only with a qualitative indicator, which may be: "achieves the requirements", "copes" and "encounters difficulties".

(8) When it is established that the students under paragraph 7 have achieved the requirements of the curriculum in a subject from the school curriculum, a grade with a quantitative indicator shall be given in this subject and the training under the individual curriculum shall be discontinued.



Art. 121. The main components of assessment, the types and forms of assessment, as well as the organization, conditions and procedure for its implementation are determined by the state educational standard for the assessment of students' learning outcomes.

Section VIII. Completion of class, stage and level of education



Art. 122. (1) A student successfully completes a grade if he/she has annual grades of at least "average (3)" in all subjects or modules provided for in the school curriculum for the respective grade in the compulsory and elective classes.

(2) A student who has successfully completed a certain grade shall continue his/her studies in the next grade.

(3) A student in the initial stage of primary education continues his/her studies in the next grade regardless of his/her annual grades in the subjects studied, if he/she is educated in a full-time, individual, self-contained, distance or combined form and his/her age is appropriate for this grade or exceeds it, but by no more than three years.



Art. 123. (1) A student who has an annual grade of "weak (2)" in a subject or module shall take an exam to change the grade in the subject or module under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for the assessment of students' learning outcomes.

(2) In the cases under paragraph 1, a student who has not appeared or has not successfully passed the exam for changing the grade shall repeat the grade.



Art. 124. (1) Students from grades I to III inclusive who have not mastered the competencies set out in the curriculum for the relevant grade, as well as students from IV grade who have an annual grade of "weak (2)" in a subject, shall not take exams to change the grade and shall not repeat the grade if they have been educated in a full-time, individual, self-contained, distance or combined form and their age is appropriate for this grade or exceeds it, but by no more than three years.

(2) For the students under para. 1, with the exception of those who have studied independently, additional training shall be organized during the summer vacation under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by order of the school principal. If necessary, the additional training may continue during the following school year.



Art. 125. A student of grade XII who has an annual grade of "weak (2)" in one or more subjects or modules and has not appeared or has not successfully passed the exams for changing the grade, shall not repeat the grade. He may appear for exams for changing the grade without restrictions on the number of exam sessions under the conditions and in the order determined by the state educational standard for assessing the results of students' learning.



Art. 126. (1) A student with special educational needs shall not repeat a grade.

(2) For the education of a student with special educational needs who has an annual grade of "weak (2)" in a subject, at the discretion of the personal development support team in the next grade, an individual curriculum may be developed in the relevant subject.

(3) In the cases under para. 2, when an individual curriculum has not been developed for the student in the subject for which he has a grade of "weak (2)", in the following academic year he shall take an exam to change the grade in this subject.



Art. 127. A student who is in independent or part-time form, when repeating a grade, shall study and take exams only in the subjects or modules for which he has a grade of "weak (2)".



Art. 128. (1) Students who have completed their studies in grades I, II and III shall be issued a certificate of completion of the grade.

(2) Except in the cases under paragraph 1, completed education in a certain grade shall be certified by a student record book.



Art. 129. (1) Students who have completed their studies in the 4th grade shall receive a certificate of completion of the initial stage of primary education.

(2) The document under paragraph 1 gives the right to continue education in the lower secondary stage of primary education.



Art. 130. (1) Students who have successfully completed grade VII acquire primary education, which is certified by a certificate of primary education. The certificate gives the right to continue education at the next level of education, as well as to training for the acquisition of professional qualifications.
(2) Students under Art. 120, para. 7, who have completed their studies in the VII grade, receive a certificate of completion of the VII grade, which entitles them to continue their studies in the VIII grade and to vocational training.



Art. 131. (1) Students who have successfully completed the 10th grade shall receive a certificate of completion of the first stage of secondary education, which entitles them to continue their studies in the second stage of secondary education and training for the acquisition of a professional qualification.
(2) Students under Art. 120, para. 7, who have completed their studies in the Xth grade, shall receive a certificate of completion of the Xth grade, which entitles them to continue their studies in the XIth grade and to vocational training.
(3) The students under paragraphs 1 and 2, who are also studying for the acquisition of a professional qualification, in addition to the document under paragraphs 1 and 2, shall also receive the relevant documents issued under the terms and conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the Vocational Education and Training Act.



Art. 132. (1) Students who have successfully completed grade 12 become high school graduates and acquire the right to take state high school exams and a state exam for acquiring a professional qualification.
(2) High school graduates, educated according to a school curriculum that provides profiled training, acquire secondary education after successfully passing a mandatory state high school leaving examination in the subject Bulgarian Language and Literature and a mandatory state high school leaving examination in a profiled subject.
(3) High school graduates, educated according to a school curriculum that provides professional training, acquire secondary education after successfully passing a mandatory state high school graduation exam in the subject Bulgarian Language and Literature and a mandatory state exam for acquiring professional qualification - in theory and practice of the profession.



Art. 133. (1) The acquisition of secondary education shall be certified by a secondary education diploma, which shall also include the overall grade. The secondary education diploma shall be final and shall give the right to continue education or vocational training.
(2) The high school graduates under Art. 132, para. 3 shall, in addition to a secondary education diploma, also receive a certificate of professional qualification. Under the terms and conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the Vocational Education and Training Act, they shall also receive a certificate of legal capacity for the professions for which such a certificate is required.
(3) At his/her request, the person may obtain a European supplement to the certificate of professional qualification and/or a supplement to the secondary education diploma in a foreign language - English, French or German.



Art. 134. (1) The mandatory state matriculation examination in the subject Bulgarian Language and Literature shall be taken on the academic content studied in the mandatory classes in the second high school stage of secondary education.
(2) The second compulsory state matriculation examination under Art. 132, para. 2 shall be taken in a subject chosen by the student from among the subjects Foreign Language - English, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian, Mathematics, Informatics, Information Technologies, Physics and Astronomy, Biology and Health Education, Chemistry and Environmental Protection, History and Civilizations, Geography and Economics, Entrepreneurship, Music, Fine Arts and Philosophy, if the student has studied it in the elective classes as a profile subject in the second high school stage of secondary education. The state matriculation examination shall be taken on the educational content of the compulsory modules of the profile subject.
(3) The state examination for acquiring a professional qualification under Art. 132, para. 3 shall be taken under the terms and conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the Vocational Education and Training Act.



Art. 135. (1) At his/her own request, the high school graduate may take up to two additional state high school exams in subjects of his/her choice from among the subjects Bulgarian language and literature, Foreign language - English, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian, Mathematics, Information Technologies, Physics and Astronomy, Biology and Health Education, Chemistry and Environmental Protection, History and Civilizations, Geography and Economics and Philosophy.

(2) In case the selected subject under paragraph 1 is studied by the student as a profile subject, the state matriculation examination shall be taken on the educational content of the mandatory modules of the profile subject studied in the elective classes in the second stage of secondary education.

(3) In case the selected subject under paragraph 1 is not studied by the student as a profile subject, the state matriculation examination shall be taken on the educational content studied in the compulsory classes at the secondary level of education.

(4) A high school graduate may take an additional state high school leaving examination in the subject Bulgarian Language and Literature only if he/she has studied the subject as a profile subject. The state high school leaving examination is taken on the educational content of the mandatory modules of the profile subject.

(5) Except in the cases under paragraph 4, an additional state matriculation examination may not be taken in a subject in which the matriculated student has passed a mandatory state matriculation examination.

(6) An additional state matriculation examination in the subject Foreign Language may also be taken in a foreign language other than those specified in paragraph 1, if, according to the school curriculum, the student has studied the relevant foreign language in the first stage of secondary education and as a profile subject in the second stage of secondary education.



Art. 135a. (New - SG, issue 23 of 2024) (1) For the purposes of applying to a higher education institution, high school graduates or persons holding a secondary education diploma shall, at their own request, have the right to take an exam once, within the academic year of their graduation or the following academic year, in accordance with the procedure for state high school examinations, in a subject in which they have already successfully passed a state high school examination, on the educational content provided for studying the same type of preparation.

(2) The result of the exam under paragraph 1 shall not change the result of the state matriculation exam in the secondary education diploma and shall be reflected in a certificate of passing the exam in accordance with the procedure for state matriculation exams for the purposes of applying to higher education.

(3) When applying to a higher education institution, the certificate under para. 2 entitles the applicant to include the grade from the examination set under para. 1 with the weight of or instead of a grade from a state matriculation examination from the secondary education diploma in cases where it is more favorable for the person in the graduation process or for admission under the conditions of art. 68, para. 4 of the Higher Education Act .



Art. 136. (1) Students studying under the terms of an international agreement which provides for the passing of an examination in the official or one of the official languages of the state party to the agreement upon completion of secondary education may request that this examination be considered as a second compulsory state matriculation examination, if the language of the state party to the agreement is among the foreign languages under Art. 134, para. 2 and if the examination was taken under the terms and conditions and in accordance with the procedure provided for in the international agreement.

(2) In the cases under para. 1, the grade from the language exam taken under the conditions and according to the procedure provided for in the international agreement shall be entered in the secondary education diploma as a grade from the second mandatory state matriculation exam.

(3) The provision under paragraph 1 shall not apply to exams that are assessed in a manner that does not allow the result to be equated to an assessment system operating in school education in the Republic of Bulgaria.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall apply accordingly in cases of education both according to the state educational standards and according to the requirements of another Member State, when for the acquisition of secondary education passing an examination in the language of the Member State is required and the examination is passed under the conditions and according to the procedure provided for in the legislation of that Member State.



Art. 137. (1) The curriculum and examination programs for the state matriculation exams, which are based on the educational content studied in the compulsory classes in the two stages of secondary education, are determined by the state educational standard for general education.

(2) The curriculum and examination programs for the state matriculation exams, which are based on the educational content of the mandatory modules of the profiled subject, are determined by the state educational standard for the profiled preparation.

(3) The formation of the overall grade under Art. 133, para. 1, as well as the terms and conditions for the organization and conduct of the state matriculation examinations shall be regulated by the state educational standard for assessing the results of students' learning.

(4) The state matriculation examinations in each subject are assessed at the national level by teachers and lecturers from higher education institutions.

(5) The Ministry of Education and Science shall introduce a mechanism for publicity, transparency and annual analysis of the results of the state matriculation exams.



Art. 138. (1) A high school graduate who has not appeared or has not successfully passed some of the examinations under Art. 132, para. 2 or some of the examinations under Art. 132, para. 3 shall, at his/her own request, receive a certificate of completion of the second stage of secondary education, which entitles him/her to vocational training. The certificate of completion of the second stage of secondary education does not entitle him/her to continue his/her education.

(2) A high school graduate who has not appeared or has not successfully passed an additional state high school leaving examination shall acquire secondary education if he has successfully passed the mandatory state high school leaving examinations, respectively the state examination for acquiring professional qualification. In these cases, only the successfully passed additional state high school leaving examinations shall be entered in the secondary education diploma.

(3) The high school graduates under paragraph 1 may take the state high school diploma examinations and the state examination for acquiring a qualification in a profession without any age limit and number of examination sessions, subject to compliance with the legal acts in force at the time of taking the examination.

(4) The high school graduates under para. 1 shall take only the mandatory state high school leaving examination or the state examination for acquiring a qualification in a profession, which they have not successfully passed. At each subsequent appearance at a state high school leaving examination in a profile subject, the high school graduate may change his choice of subject under the conditions of art. 134, para. 2.

(5) A high school graduate who has successfully passed only the state examination for acquiring a qualification in a profession shall receive a certificate of professional qualification. Under the terms and conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the Vocational Education and Training Act, he may also receive a certificate of legal capacity.



Art. 139. Students may not repeat a successfully completed grade and re-acquire education of the same level in schools, except in cases provided for in a regulatory act.



Article 140. The conditions and procedure for completing a certain grade and a certain stage of the level of education and for moving to the next grade or stage of the level of education shall be determined no later than the beginning of the relevant school year of the relevant grade or stage.



Art. 141. (1) The requirements for the content of documents for a completed grade, stage or level of education shall be determined by the state educational standard for information and documents.

(2) The documents for a completed stage of the degree of education, for completed education, for an acquired degree of professional qualification, as well as for completed professional training shall indicate the relevant level of the National Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework.

(3) The Minister of Education and Science shall organize the creation and maintenance of an information register for documents for completed primary education, secondary education and/or degree of professional qualification.

Section IX.

Admissions Plan. Admission and Transfer of Students



Art. 142. (1) Students shall enter state and municipal schools at the places determined by the school, state and additional state admission plan.

(2) The school admission plan shall determine the number of places to which students are admitted in the first grade of the primary and/or junior high school stage, with the exception of the cases under para. 3, item 5, and for evening schools, special schools, schools attached to places of deprivation of liberty and for Bulgarian schools abroad - also for the first grade of the stages of the secondary education level. This number may be changed by the principal in the following grades in accordance with the actual enrolled students.

(3) The state admission plan determines the number of places to which students are admitted in:

1. in the specialized high schools and in the vocational high schools, in the specialized training classes in the secondary schools and in the vocational high schools or in the vocational training classes in the combined schools, in the secondary schools and in the specialized high schools - in the 8th grade;
2. sports schools - in V, VI, VII or VIII grade;
3. art schools - in 1st, 5th and 8th grades;
4. schools of culture - in grades I, V and VIII;
5. Grade V - in high schools under Art. 38, para. 3 .

(4) The additional state admission plan determines the number of places to which students who have completed the first stage of secondary education from the merged schools are admitted to the specialized high schools and vocational high schools, to the specialized training or vocational training classes in secondary schools, as well as to the specialized training classes in vocational high schools and to the vocational training classes in the specialized high schools.



Art. 143. (1) The school admission plan shall be determined before the beginning of the school year by the school principal under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education and in compliance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.

(2) The state admission plan shall be approved for each academic year by order of:

1. the head of the regional education department - for the schools under Art. 142, para. 3, items 1 and 5 ;
2. the Minister of Youth and Sports - for the schools under Art. 142, Para. 3, Item 2 ;
3. the Minister of Culture - for the schools under Art. 142, Para. 3, Items 3 and 4 ;
4. the Minister of Education and Science - for the schools under Art. 38, para. 4 .

(3) The additional state admission plan shall be approved for each academic year by order of:

1. the head of the regional education department - for the schools under Art. 142, para. 3, item 1 ;
2. the Minister of Education and Science - for the schools under Art. 38, para. 4 .

(4) The state admission plan under paragraph 2, item 1 and the additional state admission plan under paragraph 3, item 1 shall be approved after coordination with the financing body.

(5) The conditions and procedure for approving the state admission plan for schools under Art. 142, para. 3, items 1 and 5 and the additional state admission plan shall be determined by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education.

(6) The conditions and procedure for approving the state admission plan for the schools under Art. 142, Para. 3, Item 2 shall be determined by an ordinance of the Minister of Youth and Sports, and for the schools under Art. 142, Para. 3, Items 3 and 4 - by an ordinance of the Minister of Culture.



Art. 144. (1) In a secondary school, in a combined school and in a specialized high school, a state admission plan for training in classes for acquiring a professional qualification may be approved under the following conditions:

1. the school has the necessary material and technical resources;
2. the school has the opportunity to provide training with teachers in vocational training;
3. there is no other school within the municipality that offers the same training;
4. the professions are close to the main profile in which the school provides training - for the specialized high school.

(2) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) In a secondary school, in a unified school and in a specialized high school in cities with a population of over 30 thousand people, under the conditions of para. 1, items 1, 2 and 4, a state admission plan for training in classes for acquiring professional qualifications may be approved even when there are one or several schools on the territory of the municipality that offer the same training, but the material and technical base at their disposal is not sufficient and/or there is no sufficient opportunity to provide the training with the necessary teachers for professional training.

(3) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) In the cases under para. 2, the state admission plan for training in classes for acquiring professional qualification in a secondary school, in a combined school and in a specialized high school shall be approved after permission from the Minister of Education and Science, if there is a need for specialists with professional qualification in a relevant profession.

(4) (Previous para. 2 - SG, issue 17 of 2020) In vocational high schools, a state admission plan for training in classes in which profiled training is provided in the second high school stage may be approved only if there is no other school on the territory of the municipality that offers the same training.

(5) (Previous para. 3, amended - SG, issue 17 of 2020) The conditions under paras. 1 and 4 shall apply accordingly also upon approval of the additional state admission plan.



Art. 145. (1) Except in the cases specified in this law, the admission of students to grade I may not be based on a test of their abilities.

(2) The admission of students in the VIII grade in the schools under Art. 142, Para. 3, Item 1 and of students from the united schools in the XI grade in the schools under Art. 142, Para. 4 , as well as in the cases provided for in the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education, shall be carried out on the basis of the results of the national external assessment.

(3) (Amended - SG, issue 27 of 2024) In the cases under paragraph 2, a test of abilities for profiles and professions defined by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education may also be carried out.

(4) In the cases under para. 2, students from the merged schools shall take equivalency exams when the school curricula of the receiving school and the school from which the student is transferring are developed on the basis of different framework or standard curricula.

(5) Students with special educational needs enter special schools after assessment and referral under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.

(6) Students who have received a certificate of completion of grade VII may continue their education in the next grade after referral from the regional center for support of the process of inclusive education in a school under Art. 142, para. 3, item 1 under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 146. (1) For students who are admitted under an approved state admission plan to schools of culture, schools of art and sports schools, as well as to schools with a profile in Music, Fine Arts, Physical Education and Sports, an aptitude test may be performed.

(2) The ability test shall be organized under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by:

1. regulations of the Minister of Culture - for schools of arts and schools of culture;
2. regulation of the Minister of Youth and Sports - on sports schools;
3. Ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science - for schools with a profile in Fine Arts, Music and Physical Education and Sports.



Art. 147. The conditions and procedure for admission and transfer of students from grades 1 to 12 shall be determined by the state educational standard for the organization of activities in school education, and for students in art schools, culture schools and sports schools - by the regulations under Art. 146, para. 2 .



Art. 148. (1) Upon transfer, students from grades 1 to 7 inclusive shall not take equivalency exams.

(2) Upon transfer, students from grades 8 to 12 inclusive shall take equivalency exams when the school curricula of the receiving school and the school from which the student is transferring are developed on the basis of different framework or standard curricula.



Art. 149. (1) The admission of students to Bulgarian schools abroad shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the act of their opening.

(2) The admission of students to private schools shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the regulations for their activities, and for students admitted in accordance with the procedure of Art. 10, para. 4 , and in the state educational standard for the financing of the institutions.

(3) The admission of students to religious schools shall be carried out with the consent of the parents and under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the relevant religious denomination.

Chapter Seven.

TEXTBOOKS, TEXTBOOKS AND TEACHING AIDS (IN FORCE FROM 14.12.2015)

Section I.

Educational books, textbooks and teaching aids (Effective from 14.12.2015)



Art. 150. (In force from 14.12.2015) (1) Educational books and teaching aids shall be used in preschool education.

(2) Textbooks and teaching aids shall be used in school education.



Art. 151. (In force from 14.12.2015) (1) The cognitive book is a work created as a result of creative activity, which is approved by the Minister of Education and Science for the provision of preschool education. The cognitive book is a didactic tool that supports the comprehensive education of the child in one or several educational areas for a certain age group of preschool education for mastering the competencies specified in the state educational standard for preschool education.

(2) A textbook is a work created as a result of creative activity, which has been approved by the Minister of Education and Science for the provision of school education. A textbook is a didactic tool, which is for the student's independent learning and which supports his/her overall training in a specific subject or module for mastering the competencies specified in the state educational standard for general education, the state educational standard for specialized education or the state educational standard for the acquisition of a qualification in a profession, as well as in the relevant curriculum.

(3) A teaching aid is a work created as a result of creative activity that supports preschool and school education for:

1. concretization, expansion or deepening of the entire or individual parts of the educational content;
2. consolidation or practical application of the acquired competencies.

(4) In school education, teaching kits approved by the Minister of Education and Science may also be used. The teaching kit includes a textbook and one or more teaching aids, created in a unified system.



Art. 152. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) Educational books, textbooks and teaching aids must be in accordance with the age characteristics of children and students, as well as encourage independence and thinking.

(2) Educational books, textbooks and educational kits may not contain elements of commercial advertising.



Art. 153. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) Educational booklets shall be created as printed publications, printed publications with an electronic version or electronic publications.

(2) Textbooks shall be created as printed publications or printed publications with an electronic version.

(3) Teaching aids are created as printed publications, printed publications with an electronic version or electronic publications.



Art. 154. (In force from 14.12.2015) According to their purpose, textbooks are for training in:

1. the subjects of general education;
2. the mandatory modules of the profiled training;
3. the subjects Mother Tongue, Religion and Choreography;
4. the subjects or modules of general vocational training;
5. special subjects for students with sensory disabilities.



Art. 155. (Effective from 14.12.2015) According to their function, teaching aids may be a didactic game, an album, a notebook, a teaching notebook, a teaching book, a collection of tasks, contour maps,

teaching materials or teaching analyses, a teaching atlas, a teaching practice guide, a teaching course in theory and/or practice of the profession.



Art. 156. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) The requirements for the content, graphic design, printing and electronic implementation of educational books, textbooks, teaching kits and teaching aids shall be determined by the state educational standard for educational books, textbooks and teaching aids.
(2) Textbooks for training in the subjects under Art. 154, item 5 shall also be prepared on an electronic medium, the requirements being set out in the state educational standard under Para. 1.

Section II.

Evaluation and approval of projects of educational books, textbooks and educational sets (Effective from 14.12.2015)



Art. 157. (In force from 14.12.2015) (1) A procedure for evaluating and approving projects of educational books, textbooks and educational sets shall be opened by order of the Minister of Education and Science:

1. after approval of new curricula - for school education, and after adoption or amendment of the state educational standard for preschool education - for preschool education;
 2. when none of the approved textbooks has been distributed for the beginning of the school year;
 3. when none of the publishers of the approved educational books, textbooks and educational sets has submitted an application for inclusion in the list under Article 162 ;
 4. when, during a procedure , not a single educational booklet, respectively not a single textbook and educational set, has been approved;
 5. in the cases under Art. 161 , when no change has been made or it has not been approved in any of the approved educational books, respectively in any of the textbooks and educational sets.
- (2) In the order under para. 1, the Minister of Education and Science shall set a deadline for submitting the drafts of the educational books, textbooks and teaching kits, which may not be shorter than 12 months from the date of the order under para. 1.
- (3) The projects of educational books are assessed for compliance with the requirements of the state educational standard for textbooks, educational books and teaching aids.
- (4) Textbook and teaching kit projects are evaluated in two stages:
1. first stage - assessment of compliance with the requirements of the state educational standard for educational books, textbooks and teaching aids;
 2. second stage - assessment of their suitability for implementation in school.



Art. 158. (In force from 14.12.2015) (1) The assessment of the projects of a cognitive book, as well as the first stage of the assessment of the projects of a textbook or a teaching set, shall be carried out by assessors appointed by the Minister of Education and Science, in coordination with the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

(2) The second stage of the evaluation of the projects of a textbook or a teaching set is carried out for the projects that meet the requirements of the state educational standard for cognitive books, textbooks and teaching aids, and is carried out in each school by the teachers who teach the subject at the relevant stage of the level of education.



Art. 159. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) A person who is:

1. author or publisher of a project of an educational book, textbook or educational set submitted to the evaluation procedure ;
2. author or publisher of an approved textbook or teaching set in the relevant subject for the relevant grade, or an educational booklet used in the pre-school and school education system;
3. in contractual relations with the author or publisher at the time of the procedure ;
4. in a hierarchical relationship of management and control with the author of the work, which is offered as a draft of an educational booklet, a textbook or a teaching kit, or with its publisher;
5. a participant in any capacity in the creation of the work, which is offered as a project for an educational book, a textbook or a teaching kit;
6. spouse of the author or publisher or their relative in the direct line without limitation, but in the collateral line or by marriage up to the fourth degree inclusive.

(2) The absence of the circumstances under paragraph 1 shall be certified by a declaration.



Art. 160. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) The Minister of Education and Science shall, by order, approve all projects of educational books for which, based on the evaluation, it has been established that they comply with the state educational standard for educational books, textbooks and teaching aids.

(2) The Minister of Education and Science shall, by order, approve all draft textbooks and teaching kits for which, based on the evaluation, it has been established that they comply with the state educational standard for educational books, textbooks and teaching aids, have been developed on the basis of the approved programs under Art. 76, para. 7 , Art. 78, para. 1 and Art. 83, para. 7 and are applicable in practice.

(3) The orders under paras 1 and 2 or the refusals to approve drafts of educational books, drafts of textbooks and educational sets shall be issued no later than 6 months after the expiry of the relevant deadline for submitting the drafts of educational books, textbooks and educational sets under Art. 157, para. 2 .

(4) The approved educational books, textbooks and educational sets may be used for preschool and school preparation until new curricula come into force or until their content, graphic design, printing or electronic implementation are changed.



Art. 161. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) Only objectively necessary changes in the content, graphic design, printing or electronic execution may be made in approved educational books, textbooks and educational sets. Objectively necessary changes are corrections of errors or are a consequence of a change in the regulatory framework, an objective change in facts, circumstances, statistics and the like.

(2) The changes under paragraph 1 may be made by the authors or publishers only at the initiative of the Minister of Education and Science.

(3) In the cases under paragraph 2, the change shall be approved by the Minister of Education and Science.

(4) The authors and/or publishers of the approved educational books, textbooks and educational sets may make corrections to obvious factual errors on their own initiative and without approval under paragraph 3, in which case they are obliged to notify the Minister of Education and Science within one week of the printing of the circulation.



Art. 162. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) For each school year, the Minister of Education and Science shall approve a list of educational books, textbooks and teaching kits that may be used in the system of preschool and school education.

(2) The list under paragraph 1 shall be published on the official website of the Ministry of Education and Science before the beginning of the school year.

(3) Educational books and textbooks that are not included in the list under paragraph 1 may not be used in the system of preschool and school education.



Art. 163. (In force from 14.12.2015) The terms and conditions for assessing and approving the drafts of educational books, textbooks and teaching aids and the changes therein, including the appointment of the assessors, as well as the terms and conditions for approving the list under Art. 162 shall be determined by the state educational standard for educational books, textbooks and teaching aids.



Art. 164. (Effective from 14.12.2015) (1) (Amended and supplemented - SG, issue 11 of 2023, effective from the 2024-2025 school year) In the system of preschool and school education, educational books, as well as textbooks and educational sets and electronic readable textbooks for the subjects under Art. 154, items 1 and 3 and for the special subjects under Art. 154, item 5, shall be provided for free use by all children and all students from grade I to XII inclusive , under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the Council of Ministers.

(2) The textbooks and teaching kits that are provided for free use to students shall be selected by the teachers who teach the subject at the relevant stage of the level of education in a given school, after consultation with the public council.

(3) The textbooks and teaching kits other than those referred to in paragraph 1, as well as the teaching aids that the students will use, shall be selected by the teacher who teaches the relevant subject or module in the class.

(4) The educational books and teaching aids used in preschool education shall be selected by the teachers who teach in the relevant group in the kindergarten or in the school, in accordance with the program system under Art. 70 .

Chapter Eight.

RECOGNITION, EQUALIZATION AND VALIDATION OF LEARNING OUTCOMES



Art. 165. (1) Recognition is an official written confirmation of the conformity of completed periods of school education or of stages and degrees of education and professional qualification in schools of a foreign country with those in school education in the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) In accordance with the procedure of this chapter, the competencies acquired after successfully completed training in the subjects Bulgarian Language and Literature, History and Civilizations, Geography and Economics in their part relating to the history and geography of Bulgaria, carried out by organizations of Bulgarians living outside the Republic of Bulgaria financed under the terms and conditions of this law, shall also be recognized.

(3) The recognition under paragraph 1 shall be carried out for the purpose of:

1. access to education in schools from the pre-school and school education system;
2. access to vocational training;
3. (amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) access to education in higher education institutions;
4. facilitating access to the labor market.

(4) Documents for completed periods of school education, degrees of education and professional qualifications issued by schools of foreign countries shall be recognized under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for assessing the results of students' learning.

(5) When, during the recognition process, a difference is found in the systems for assessing learning outcomes, the grades shall be equated in accordance with the Bulgarian grading system under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for assessing students' learning outcomes.

(6) The recognition and equivalence under paragraph 5 shall be carried out by the Minister of Education and Science or by officials authorized by him.



Art. 166. (1) Validation is the assessment and recognition of the correspondence between competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning and the requirements for completing a grade, stage or level of education and/or for acquiring a professional qualification and issuing the relevant official document for the purpose of:

1. access to education in schools from the pre-school and school education system;
2. access to training for acquiring professional qualifications;
3. (new - SG, issue 11 of 2023) access to education in higher education institutions;
4. (previous item 3 - SG, issue 11 of 2023) facilitating access to the labor market.

(2) Non-formal education is education that is carried out as an organized activity outside the system of pre-school and school education, but does not lead to the completion of a grade, stage and level of education and/or to the acquisition of a professional qualification.

(3) Informal learning is a non-institutionalized, unorganized and unsystematic accumulation of competences in a person's life.

(4) (Amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) Under the terms and conditions of this Chapter, competences may be validated only of persons who have not acquired primary or secondary education, and when validating competences in a subject under Art. 134 - only of:

1. persons who have acquired secondary education, if the subject is not included in their secondary education diploma;
2. high school graduates who have not studied the subject in the elective classes as a profile subject in the second stage of secondary education or have studied the subject Foreign Language as a profile subject at a lower level than the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

(5) (Repealed - SG, issue 11 of 2023)

(6) Under the terms and conditions of this chapter, competences may be validated for a completed period of school education or for a completed grade or stage of the basic level of education, as well as a grade of the first secondary school stage or the first secondary school stage of a person of compulsory school age, seeking or having received protection under the Asylum and Refugees Act , when it is impossible to present the relevant document for the relevant person.

(7) Under the terms and conditions of this chapter, competences may be validated for a completed period of school education or for a completed grade or stage of the basic level of education, as well as a grade of

the first secondary school stage or the first secondary school stage, of a person with special educational needs who has acquired the relevant document with grades with a quality indicator.



Art. 167. (1) Under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of this Chapter, the following competencies may be validated:

1. in a specific subject for one or several classes of the basic level of education;
 2. (amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) in a subject under Art. 134 ;
 3. in all general education subjects provided for study in the compulsory classes for a certain grade of the basic level of education;
 4. necessary for completion of the primary or lower secondary stage of basic education;
 5. necessary for acquiring a professional qualification.
- (2) Validation under paragraph 1, items 1, 3 and 4 is the assessment and recognition of the compliance of the competencies with the requirements in the relevant curriculum and/or in the state educational standard for general education.
- (3) (Amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) The validation in a subject under para. 1, item 2 shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure for the additional state matriculation examinations, with the person choosing whether to take the exam on the educational content that is studied in school education for the acquisition of general education in the classes of the secondary level of education, and for Bulgarian language and literature - in the second high school stage, or on the educational content of the mandatory modules of the profiling subject, provided for study in the elective classes in the second high school stage of secondary education.
- (4) Validation under para. 1, items 3 and 4 may be carried out only after presentation of a document for a previous class or stage.
- (5) The validation under para. 1, items 1, 3 and 4 shall be carried out by a school chosen by the person, which provides the relevant training.
- (6) The validation under para. 1, items 1, 3 and 4 shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the state educational standard for the assessment of the results of the students' learning.
- (7) The validation under paragraph 1, item 5 shall be carried out under the terms and conditions of the Vocational Education and Training Act .
- (8) Citizens may not revalidate competencies recognized under the terms and conditions of this chapter.



Art. 168. (1) The compliance of the competencies with the requirements for completion of a class, stage or level of education and/or for professional qualification shall be certified by the following documents:

1. a certificate for validation of competencies in a subject for one or several classes, which entitles to issue a document for a completed class, stage or degree under conditions specified in the state educational standard for information and documents;
 2. (amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) a certificate for validation of competencies in a subject according to the procedure of the additional state matriculation exams, which, when applying to a higher education institution, gives the right to include the assessment in the grading system or for admission under the conditions of Art. 68, para. 4 of the Higher Education Act ;
 3. a certificate for validation of competencies for a class of the basic level of education, which gives the right to continue in the next class or for training to acquire a professional qualification;
 4. a certificate for validation of competences for the initial stage of the basic level of education, which gives the right to continue in the next stage of school education or for training for the acquisition of professional qualification;
 5. a certificate for validation of competencies for a basic level of education, which gives the right to continue in the secondary level of education or for training to acquire a professional qualification;
 6. certificate of validation of professional qualification;
 7. certificate for validation of professional qualification in part of a profession.
- (2) The compliance of the competencies with the requirements for completion of a grade, stage or basic level of education for the persons under Art. 166, para. 6 and 7 shall be certified, in addition to the documents under para. 1, items 3 - 5, with the following documents:
1. a certificate of validation of competencies for a class of the first stage of secondary school, which gives the right to continue in the next class;
 2. a certificate for validation of competences for the first stage of secondary education, which gives the right to continue in the second stage of secondary education.
- (3) The content and procedure for issuing the documents under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be determined by the state educational standard for information and documents.



Art. 169. (1) Schools may organize and conduct literacy courses and courses for acquiring competencies from the lower secondary school stage for persons aged 16 and over.
(2) The training in the courses under paragraph 1 shall be carried out according to programs approved by the Minister of Education and Science, oriented towards the learning outcomes determined by the state educational standard for general education for primary and lower secondary school.
(3) Persons who have completed training in a course under paragraph 1 shall take exams under the terms and conditions and in accordance with the procedure of the state educational standard for assessing the results of students' training.
(4) The persons who have successfully passed the examinations under para. 3 shall be issued the certificates under art. 168, para. 1, item 3, 4 or 5 , respectively .



Art. 170. (1) Schools that provide training for the acquisition of professional qualifications may organize and conduct courses for the preparation for the validation of professional competencies for persons over 16 years of age.
(2) The training and completion of the course under paragraph 1 shall be carried out under the terms and conditions of the Vocational Education and Training Act .

Chapter Nine. CHILDREN AND STUDENTS

Section I. Fundamental rights and obligations



Art. 171. (1) Children, respectively students, have the following rights:

1. to be educated and raised in a healthy, safe and secure environment;
2. to be respected as active participants in the educational process;
3. to choose the profile and profession;
4. to choose between the subjects or modules offered by the school for study in elective and optional classes;
5. to receive library and information services;
6. to receive information regarding their education, upbringing, rights and obligations;
7. to receive general and additional support for personal development;
8. to be informed and consulted in relation to the choice of education and/or profession;
9. to participate in project activities;
10. to provide opinions and suggestions on school activities, including elective and optional classes;
11. through the forms of student self-government, to participate in the discussion and resolution of issues affecting school life and the school community, including the school curriculum;
12. to receive assistance from the school and local government authorities in expressing their opinions on issues that directly affect them, as well as in participating in community life;
13. to be encouraged with moral and material rewards.

(2) Students participate in school life and in the organizational development of the school through various forms of student self-government at the class and school level, determined by the school regulations upon proposal by the students.

(3) Students have the right to receive scholarships under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the Council of Ministers.



Art. 172. (1) Students have the following obligations:

1. to attend and participate in classes and activities;
2. to preserve the authority of the school and the school community and to contribute to the development of good traditions;
3. to respect the rights, honor and dignity of others, as well as not to use physical and psychological violence;
4. to wear the school uniform and other distinctive signs of the school, when such are provided, or to appear at school dressed and in appearance in accordance with the requirements of the school regulations;
5. not to participate in gambling, not to use tobacco and tobacco products, alcohol and narcotics;
6. not to carry weapons, as well as other objects that are a source of increased danger;
7. to carry their student ID card in and out of school;

8. to present their student record book and correspondence notebook to their parents and pedagogical specialists;
 9. to follow the rules of conduct in the class and at school;
 10. to comply with the regulations for the activities of the institution;
 11. not to impede the normal course of classes with their behavior and actions;
 12. not to use their mobile phones during school hours.
- (2) The regulations for the activities of the institution may also provide for other rights and obligations for children and students, as long as they do not contradict this law.



Article 173. (1) A student is one who is enrolled in a school for training to complete a grade.

(2) A student shall be deregistered from the school when:

1. moves to another school;
2. is educated in a day, evening or combined form and has not attended school for irreverent reasons for a period longer than two months;
3. is studying independently, individually, remotely or in part-time and has not appeared to pass the relevant exams in three consecutive sessions.

(3) In the cases under para. 2, items 2 and 3, when the student is of compulsory school age, the school principal shall notify the relevant municipal or regional administration, the regional education department and the child protection authorities.

Section II.

Support for the personal development of children and students



Art. 174. (1) Institutions in the system of preschool and school education shall provide support for the personal development of children and students jointly with state and local authorities and structures and providers of social services.

(2) Institutions in the system of preschool and school education shall independently develop and implement comprehensive policies for:

1. support for the personal development of the child and the student;
2. building a positive organizational climate;
3. establishing positive discipline;
4. development of the school community.

(3) Building a positive organizational climate requires creating conditions for cooperation, effective communication, and relationships of concern between all participants in the educational process.

(4) When working with children and students, institutions in the system of preschool and school education base their activities on the principle of positive discipline, which is associated with measures and approaches that guarantee listening to the child and student, understanding the reasons for their problematic behavior and providing the opportunity to learn good behavioral models towards themselves and others.

(5) When working with students, institutions in the system of preschool and school education shall base their activities on the principle of prevention of learning difficulties and early assessment of the risk thereof. These measures shall be applied to all students in a common classroom in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 175. (1) Every school shall have a code of ethics for the school community, which shall be adopted by representatives of the pedagogical council, the public council, the board of trustees and the student self-government in accordance with the procedure specified in the school's regulations.

(2) The code of ethics shall be prepared in a manner accessible and understandable to the students and shall be displayed in a prominent place in the school building.

(3) The Code of Ethics shall be published on the school's website.



Art. 176. (1) Children and students in the pre-school and school education system shall be provided with support for personal development, which ensures an appropriate physical, psychological and social environment for the development of their abilities and skills.

(2) Personal development support is implemented in accordance with the individual educational needs of each child and each student.

(3) A psychologist or pedagogical advisor, a speech therapist, a social worker and resource teachers work in kindergartens and schools to provide general and additional support.



Art. 177. (1) Support for personal development is general and additional.

(2) (Supplemented - SG No. 82/2020) General and additional support shall be provided where the child and student are - in kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers. In the cases under Art. 111, para. 1, item 1 - at home or in hospital settings, and if necessary to expand the general and additional support provided in kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers, and depending on the specifics of the activities - also remotely in an electronic environment by using the means of information and communication technologies.

(3) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) When due to extraordinary circumstances the in-person educational process in the school is suspended, as well as in the cases under Art. 105, paras. 1, 3 and 5, with the exception of the declaration of a day to celebrate the holiday of the municipality, after an order of the Minister of Education and Science, the support for the personal development of children and students, depending on their specifics, shall be carried out, to the extent and if possible, remotely in an electronic environment.

(4) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) Support for personal development may be provided remotely in an electronic environment and in the cases under Art. 115a, para. 3, under the conditions of Art. 12, para. 2 and following an order of the director of the institution.

(5) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) Support for personal development remotely in an electronic environment shall be provided by pedagogical specialists within the agreed duration of their working hours.



Art. 178. (1) General support for personal development includes:

1. teamwork between teachers and other pedagogical specialists;
2. additional training in academic subjects under the terms of this law;
3. additional modules for children who do not speak Bulgarian;
4. additional consultations on academic subjects that take place outside of regular school hours;
5. consultations on academic subjects;
6. career guidance for students;
7. hobbies;
8. library and information services;
9. health care;
10. provision of a dormitory;
11. encouragement with moral and material rewards;
12. activities to prevent violence and overcome problematic behavior;
13. early assessment of needs and prevention of learning difficulties;
14. speech therapy work.

(2) General support is provided by kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.

(3) The general support under para. 1, items 2, 4, 5 and 8 shall be provided only by schools, and the general support under para. 1, item 3 - only by kindergartens.

(4) The general support under paragraph 1, item 10 may be organized by a school or by a personal development support center.



Art. 179. Teamwork between teachers and other pedagogical specialists includes discussing problems and exchanging good practices in their work with the same children and students in order to increase the effectiveness of pedagogical approaches.



Art. 180. Career guidance in school education includes mutually complementary activities for information, diagnosis, consulting, mediation and monitoring with a view to supporting students in their independent and conscious choice of education and/or profession and establishing a connection between the school and the labor market.



Art. 181. Interest activities are organized to develop the abilities and competencies of children and students, to express their talents in the fields of science, technology, arts, sports, global, civic and health education, as well as to acquire leadership skills.



Art. 182. Library and information services are provided through a school library and guarantee free access to information for students from various documentary sources in the library collection and in the global network with the aim of building reading habits and competencies for searching and using information.



Art. 183. Health care is provided by guaranteeing access of children and students to medical services and health education and healthy lifestyle programs.



Art. 184. (1) Children and students shall be encouraged with moral and material rewards for high achievements in educational activities, in hobbies and for their contribution to the development of the school community under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.

(2) The Minister of Education and Science may establish national awards for children and students.

(3) The head of the regional education department and the mayor of the municipality may, by order, establish regional, respectively municipal awards for children and students.

(4) The director of the institution, following a decision of the pedagogical council by order, may establish awards for children and students.

(5) Awards for children and students may also be determined by the regulations for the activities of the relevant institution.



Art. 185. (1) Kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers are obliged to carry out activities to prevent bullying and violence, as well as activities to motivate and overcome problematic behavior, which are an expression of the common will and the coordinated efforts of all participants in the educational process.

(2) The types and content of bullying and violence prevention activities are subject to a general school policy, are developed independently by the school community and may include:

1. preparing, together with the students, rules for their behavior in the classroom;
2. examining topics from global, civic, health and intercultural education in class, in interest activities and in optional classes;
3. partnership with parents;
4. activities to develop the competencies of all members of the school community.



Art. 186. (1) The types and content of activities for motivation and overcoming problem behavior shall be determined by the kindergarten and the school and may include:

1. discussion between the student and the class teacher with the aim of clarifying an emerging problem and obtaining support for its resolution;
2. using a mediator in resolving conflict at school;
3. consulting the child or student with a psychologist or a pedagogical advisor;
4. creating conditions for the student's inclusion in a group to improve social skills for communication and conflict resolution;
5. directing the child and student to activities tailored to their needs;
6. individual support for the student from a person he respects (mentoring);
7. participation of the student in activities for the benefit of the class or school;
8. other activities specified in the regulations for the activities of the institution.

(2) The conditions and procedure for implementing the activities under para. 1, items 1 - 7 shall be determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 187. (1) Additional support for personal development includes:

1. working with a child and student on a specific case;
2. psychosocial rehabilitation, hearing and speech rehabilitation, visual rehabilitation, rehabilitation of communication disorders and physical disabilities;
3. providing an accessible architectural, general and specialized supporting environment, technical means, specialized equipment, didactic materials, methodologies and specialists;
4. providing training in special subjects for students with sensory disabilities;
5. resource support.

(2) Additional support for personal development is provided to children and students:

1. with special educational needs;
2. at risk;
3. with outstanding gifts;
4. with chronic diseases.

(3) The type and forms of training, as well as the specific activities for additional support for personal development, shall be determined by a support plan for the child or student. The support plan for children and students under para. 2, item 1 shall also determine the hours for resource support.

(4) Additional support for personal development is provided by kindergartens, schools, personal development support centers and specialized service units.



Art. 188. (1) Additional support shall be provided on the basis of the assessment of individual needs, which shall be carried out by a personal development support team in the kindergarten or school.

(2) The team under para. 1 shall also provide additional support under art. 187, para. 1, item 1 .

(3) The personal development support team shall be established by order of the principal for a specific child or student under Art. 187, para. 2 .

(4) The team for support of personal development shall necessarily include a psychologist or pedagogical advisor, as well as a speech therapist. The team may also include other specialists, as well as representatives of the child protection authorities and the authorities for combating antisocial behaviour of minors and juveniles.

(5) The personal development support team works together with the parents and, if necessary, with the regional support centers for the inclusive education process and/or with the personal development support centers.



Art. 189. The personal development support team in kindergarten or school:

1. identifies the strengths of the child or student, the difficulties related to his or her development, learning and behavior, as well as the reasons for their occurrence;
2. assesses the individual needs of the child or student;
3. prepares and implements a support plan;
4. monitors and evaluates the development of each specific case;
5. performs other functions provided for in the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 190. (1) Regional teams for support for the personal development of children and students with special educational needs shall be established at the regional centers for support of the process of inclusive education.

(2) The teams under paragraph 1 shall include resource teachers, special educators, including from the centers for special educational support, psychologists, speech therapists and other specialists if necessary, as well as representatives of the regional departments of education. The head of the team shall be the representative of the relevant regional department of education.

(3) The team under paragraph 1:

1. based on the assessments of the teams under Art. 188, para. 1, proposes to the director of the regional center for support of the inclusive education process to approve or disapprove the provision of additional support under Art. 187, para. 1, items 2 - 5 to children and students with special educational needs;
2. on the basis of an application from the director of the relevant kindergarten and school, assess the individual needs for additional support of children and students with special educational needs, when a team under Art. 188 cannot be formed , and propose to the director of the regional center for support of the inclusive education process to approve or disapprove the provision of additional support;
3. organizes a re-assessment of the individual needs of children and students with special educational needs in case of disagreement of the parent with the assessment under Art. 189, item 2 or with the proposed additional support and proposes to the director of the regional center for support of the inclusive education process to approve or disapprove the provision of additional support under Art. 187, paragraph 1, items 2 - 5 to children and students with special educational needs;
4. assesses the individual needs of children and students with special educational needs following an application from a parent for referral for education in special schools under Art. 44, para. 1, item 1 ;
5. assists in the process of providing additional support;
6. proposes and organizes, if necessary, the provision of methodological support for working with children and students with special educational needs in kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers;

7. informs parents about the opportunities for continuing education or acquiring professional qualifications for students with special educational needs after grades VII and X;
 8. assesses the student's education under Art. 111, para. 5 ;
 9. postpones, for objective reasons, children with special educational needs from compulsory education in grade 1, but for no more than one school year;
 10. performs other functions provided for in the state educational standard for inclusive education.
- (4) The methodological support under paragraph 3, item 6 may be provided by teams of kindergartens and schools, by personal development support centers, by non-profit legal entities carrying out activities for the public benefit in the field of inclusive education, as well as by higher education institutions, depending on the specific needs.



Art. 191. (1) The conditions and procedure for providing general and additional support shall be determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.

(2) For the general support provided by a personal development support center, which is not financed from the state budget, fees may be collected under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the Local Taxes and Fees Act .



Art. 192. (1) Kindergartens and schools are obliged to admit children and students with special educational needs.

(2) Up to three children and students with special educational needs may be educated in a group in kindergarten and in a class in school.

(3) In cases where there is no other group or class on the territory of the settlement that provides the same type of education, the number of children or students in a specific group or class may be greater than that specified in para. 2 after permission from the head of the relevant regional education department. Proposals for increasing the number of children or students shall be made by the team under Art. 188 , and when it has not been formed - upon proposal of the team under Art. 190 .

(4) When the number of children and students in a group or class increases, an assistant teacher shall be appointed upon proposal of the teams under paragraph 3.



Art. 193. (1) In kindergartens and schools, the education of children and students with special educational needs shall be mandatorily supported by a resource teacher according to the needs of the child and student.

(2) The number of resource teachers is determined depending on the number of children and students with special educational needs, the type of support and the number of hours for resource support under the conditions of the state educational standard for inclusive education.

(3) A teacher's assistant may also be designated in the child and student support plan.

(4) The requirements for the teacher's assistant and his functions are determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 194. (1) Exceptionally, when the goals of education cannot be achieved in any other way for the support and training of children and students for whom the assessment under Art. 190, para. 3, items 1 and 2 has established that, in accordance with their educational needs, they may be educated in a center for special educational support or in special groups, upon the expressed wish of the parent and the opinion of the regional center for support of the process of inclusive education, upon the proposal of the team under Art. 188, special groups may be organized in the kindergarten or school under Art. 38, para. 1 and Art. 39, para. 2, items 1 - 3 .

(2) The education of students under para. 1 shall be organized under the conditions of art. 44, paras. 3 and 4 .



Art. 195. (1) (Amended - SG, No. 24 of 2019, effective 01.07.2020, amended on entry into force - SG, No. 101 of 2019) To support the education of children and students for whom the assessment under Art. 190, para. 3, items 1 and 2 has established that, in accordance with their educational needs, they can be educated in a center for special educational support, upon a proposal from the team under Art. 188 in the kindergarten or school, respectively from the team under Art. 190, out-of-school classes and groups of children and students from kindergartens and schools under Art. 38 in centers for special educational support, as well as in social services, may be organized .

- (2) The groups and classes under paragraph 1 shall be organized by order of the director of the relevant center for special educational support upon proposal of the regional center for support of the inclusive education process after permission of the head of the regional education department.
- (3) (Amended - SG, issue 24 of 2019, effective 01.07.2020, amended on entry into force - SG, issue 101 of 2019) The groups and classes under para. 1 shall be organized in the social services by order of the mayor of the municipality upon proposal of the regional center for support of the inclusive education process after permission of the head of the regional education department.
- (4) The referral of children and students for training in the groups and classes under paragraph 1 shall be carried out upon the expressed wish of the parent and upon the opinion of the regional center for support of the process of inclusive education upon the proposal of the team for support of personal development in the kindergarten or school.
- (5) The proposals under paragraphs 2 and 3 may be made by September 15 of the respective academic year for the first academic term or by the beginning of the second academic term of the respective academic year.
- (6) The education of children and students in the groups and classes under para. 1 shall be carried out according to individual curricula, prepared in accordance with the requirements of art. 95 .
- (7) For the training provided under paragraph 6 and the training for acquiring a first degree of professional qualification or for qualification in part of a profession, the director of the relevant center for special educational support shall prepare an assessment report for each child or student in accordance with the terms and conditions of the state educational standard for inclusive education.
- (8) The assessment report under paragraph 7 shall be sent to the director of the kindergarten or school under paragraph 1 from which the child or student has been referred for issuance of a certificate for completed grade.
- (9) The conditions and procedure for organizing education in the classes and groups under paragraph 1 shall be determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 196. (1) The regional governor shall organize the development of a regional strategy for support for the personal development of children and students based on an analysis of the needs for support in each municipality within the region. The strategy shall also include a description of the challenges, strategic objectives and necessary activities in the field of support.

(2) In developing the strategy, the regional governor shall ensure the participation of representatives of each municipality on the territory of the region, of the regional education department, of the regional center for supporting the process of inclusive education, of the regional health inspectorate, of non-profit legal entities working in the field of inclusive education, and of other interested bodies, individuals and organizations relevant to the development of support for personal development.

(3) The analysis under paragraph 1 shall be developed by the respective municipalities and shall be adopted by the municipal council upon proposal of the mayor of the municipality.

(4) The strategy under paragraph 1 shall cover a period of two years.

(5) The regional governor shall approve the strategy under paragraph 1 after coordination with the regional development councils and the regional education department.

(6) (New - SG, issue 11 of 2023) The regional strategy under paragraph 1 shall be published on the website of the relevant regional administration.



Art. 197. (1) On the basis of the regional strategy under Art. 196, a municipal strategy for the personal development of children and students shall be adopted.

(2) The strategy under paragraph 1 shall be adopted by the municipal council for a period of two years.

(3) For the implementation of the strategy under para. 1, the municipal council shall annually by April 30 adopt an annual plan of activities for support for personal development. The annual plan shall be adopted upon a proposal by the mayor of the municipality after coordination with the relevant regional education department.

(4) (New - SG, issue 11 of 2023) The municipal strategy under para. 1 and the annual plan under para. 3 shall be published on the website of the relevant municipal administration.



Art. 198. (1) The mayor of the municipality, following a decision of the municipal council, may assign activities for support for personal development under Art. 49, para. 1, items 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to a center for support for personal development from another municipality, if there is no center for support for personal development in the municipality that can implement them.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 24 of 2019, effective 01.07.2020, amended on entry into force - SG, issue 101 of 2019) The mayor of the municipality, following a decision of the municipal council, may assign the

provision of activities under Art. 49, para. 1, items 3, 4, 5 and 6 to providers of social services for children licensed under the Social Services Act .

(3) (Amended - SG, issue 24 of 2019, effective 01.07.2020, amended regarding entry into force - SG, issue 101 of 2019) The assignment under para. 2 shall be carried out in accordance with the Social Services Act .

(4) The provision of the activities under paragraph 2 shall be carried out in compliance with the state educational standard for inclusive education.

Section III. Student Sanctions



Art. 199. (1) For failure to fulfill the obligations set forth in this Act, in the normative acts for its implementation and in the regulations for the activities of the school, after exhausting the other mechanisms for influencing the internal motivation and for overcoming the problematic behavior of the students, the following sanctions may be imposed:

1. note;
2. transfer to another class in the same school;
3. warning about transferring to another school;
4. transfer to another school;
5. moving from a full-time form to an independent form of study.

(2) When a student obstructs the educational process, the teacher may remove him/her until the end of the lesson.

(3) When a student appears at school wearing clothing or in an appearance that is in violation of the school's regulations, as well as when his condition does not allow him to participate in the educational process, he shall be expelled from school until the grounds for his expulsion cease to exist.

(4) Immediately after the end of the school hour under paragraph 2 or after the student's suspension under paragraph 3, activities shall be undertaken for motivation and to overcome the problematic behavior and the parent shall be notified.

(5) Activities for the prevention and overcoming of problematic behavior are also provided for the student with an imposed sanction.



Art. 200. (1) (Amended - SG, issue 27 of 2024) The sanction "transfer to another class in the same school" shall not be applied when this necessitates a change of profile or profession.

(2) The sanction "transfer from a full-time form to an independent form of study" shall apply to students who have reached the age of 16.

(3) The measures under Art. 199, paras. 2 and 3 , as well as the sanctions "warning for transfer to another school" and "transfer to another school" shall not be imposed on students in the primary school classes.

(4) The sanctions "transfer to another school" and "transfer from a full-time form to an independent form of education" are imposed for serious or systematic violations.

(5) Sanctions shall not be imposed on students when their behavior is the result of a disability or health disorder indicated in medical documents.



Art. 201. (1) For one violation, no more than one sanction under Art. 199, para. 1 may be imposed . The measures under Art. 199, para. 2 and 3 shall be imposed regardless of the sanctions under Art. 199, para. 1 .

(2) The type of sanction shall be determined taking into account the reasons and circumstances of the violation, its type and severity, as well as the age and personal characteristics of the student.



Article 202. (1) Sanctions are temporary.

(2) The term of the sanctions is until the end of the school year.

(3) When the sanctions "transfer to another class in the same school", "warning for transfer to another school", "transfer to another school" and "transfer from a full-time form to an independent form of education" are imposed up to 30 school days before the end of the second school term, they shall enter into force from the beginning of the next school year.



Article 203. (1) The sanctions "remark" and "transfer to another class in the same school" shall be imposed by order of the principal upon a motivated written proposal of the class teacher, and all other sanctions - by order of the principal upon a proposal of the pedagogical council.

(2) The measure under Art. 199, para. 3 shall be imposed by order of the director.



Art. 204. (1) For the initiation of a procedure for imposing sanctions under Art. 199, para. 1, the director shall necessarily notify the parent, and in the cases under Art. 199, para. 1, items 3 - 5 - also the relevant territorial child protection structures.

(2) In the procedure for imposing a sanction, the minor student shall be represented by his/her parent or by a person authorized by the parent, and the minor student shall perform all actions personally, but with the consent of his/her parents.

(3) The student has the right, before the imposition of the relevant sanction, to be heard and/or to explain in writing the facts and circumstances related to the specific violation. The hearing shall be carried out in the presence of a psychologist or a pedagogical advisor.

(4) The student's parent has the right to attend the hearing and express an opinion, as well as to participate in the procedure for imposing the sanction under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.

(5) The specific conditions and procedure for imposing the sanctions under Article 199 shall be determined by the state educational standard for inclusive education.



Art. 205. (1) The order for imposing the sanction shall be issued within 14 days of the proposal under Art. 203 .

(2) The order under paragraph 1 shall specify the type of sanction, the term and the reasons for its imposition.

(3) The order shall be notified within three days of its issuance to both the student and his/her parent, and the order imposing a sanction of "transfer to another school" - to the head of the regional education department.

(4) The order under para. 1 may be contested administratively before the authorities under art. 259, para. 2, items 1, 2, 3 and 5 .

(5) The order under paragraph 1 may be appealed under the terms and conditions of the Administrative Procedure Code .



Article 206. (1) The sanctions imposed shall be recorded in the student's student record book, personal file and correspondence notebook.

(2) A student who has been imposed a sanction of "transfer to another school" shall continue his/her studies in the other school under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by an order of the head of the regional education department.

(3) A student who has been imposed a sanction of "warning for transfer to another school", "transfer to another school" or "transfer from a full-time form to an independent form of study", shall be deprived of the right to receive a scholarship for excellent performance for the term of the sanction.

(4) When imposing the measure under Art. 199, para. 2, the student shall not have the right to leave the school premises during the period of his/her suspension. When implementing the measure, the school shall create conditions for working with the students to increase their motivation and social communication skills.



Article 207. (1) Sanctions shall be deleted upon expiry of the term for which they were imposed, or prematurely in accordance with the procedure in which they were imposed.

(2) At the student's request, after the sanctions "transfer to another class in the same school" and "transfer to another school" have been removed, he may continue his studies in the class or in the school to which he has been transferred.

(3) The deletion shall be noted in the student's record book and in the student's personal file.

Chapter Ten. PARENTS



Art. 208. (1) Cooperation and interaction between parents and the kindergarten or school shall be carried out through individual consultations, parent meetings, training, as well as whenever a specific situation or behavior of the child or student makes it necessary.

(2) A means of constant communication between the school and the parent is the correspondence notebook.

(3) A means of communication with the student's family can also be the e-mail of one of the parents, as well as the class's electronic diary.



Art. 209. Parents have the following rights:

1. to periodically and promptly receive information about the success and development of their children in the educational process, about compliance with the rules in kindergarten and school, and about their integration into the community;
2. to meet with the management of the kindergarten or school, the class teacher, the teachers and other pedagogical specialists at the designated reception time or at another time convenient for both parties;
3. to become familiar with the school curriculum or the relevant pedagogical system in the kindergarten;
4. to be present and, if they so wish, to be heard when issues affecting the rights and interests of the child or student are being decided;
5. at least once a year to receive information, support and counseling in kindergartens or schools on issues related to the education, career guidance and personal development of their children;
6. to elect and be elected to the public council of the kindergarten or school;
7. to express opinions and make suggestions for the development of the kindergarten, the school and the personal development support center.



Art. 210. (1) Parents have the following obligations:

1. to ensure the regular attendance of the child in compulsory pre-school education and of the student in school, by promptly notifying the kindergarten or school in cases of absence of the child or student;
2. to enroll the child in first grade or the student in school under the conditions of Article 12 in cases of moving to another settlement or school;
3. regularly inform themselves about their children regarding their inclusion in the kindergarten and school environment, their success and development in education and compliance with school rules;
4. to comply with the regulations for the activities of the kindergarten, school and the center for support for personal development and to assist in their compliance by the child and the student;
5. to participate in the process of building self-preparation habits as part of building lifelong learning skills;
6. to participate in parent meetings;
7. to appear at the school upon invitation by a teacher, principal or other pedagogical specialist at a time convenient for both parties.

(2) Parents whose children are educated in an independent form of education under Art. 112, Para. 1, Item 2 , as well as in an independent organization, are obliged to guarantee the achievement of the objectives under Art. 5 , to provide the necessary conditions for education, educational books, textbooks and teaching aids, as well as to apply methodologies and approaches of their choice, tailored to the age, individual needs and interests of the child.

Chapter Eleven.

TEACHERS, DIRECTORS AND OTHER PEDAGOGICAL SPECIALISTS

Section I.

General provisions



Art. 211. (1) Teachers, principals, as well as deputy principals who perform standard teaching work, are pedagogical specialists.

(2) Pedagogical specialists are also the heads of the "Information and Communication Technologies" department, educators, psychologists, pedagogical advisors, speech therapists, hearing and speech rehabilitators, accompanists, choreographers and sports coaches.

(3) Pedagogical specialists are persons who perform the following functions:

1. related to training, upbringing and socialization, as well as to support for the personal development of children and students in kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers;
2. on the management of the institutions under item 1.



Art. 212. (1) The necessary competencies as a set of knowledge, skills and attitudes at career development levels for each type of pedagogical specialist are defined in a professional profile.
(2) The professional profile and the results achieved in the education of their students are the basis for determining priorities for professional development, as well as for supporting the self-assessment and attestation of pedagogical specialists.



Art. 213. (1) The positions of pedagogical specialists shall be held by Bulgarian citizens who have acquired higher education in the professional field corresponding to the position according to the Classifier of the Fields of Higher Education and Professional Fields and professional qualification necessary for the performance of the respective position.
(2) To occupy the position of "director" of a kindergarten, school or personal development support center, no less than 5 years of teaching experience is required.
(3) To occupy the position of "director" in a sports school, no less than 5 years of teaching experience or 5 years of professional experience in the field of physical education and sports is required.
(4) The positions of pedagogical specialists may also be held by:

1. citizens of other Member States;
2. foreign citizens, if they are proposed under interstate agreements;
3. foreign citizens residing in the country for a long time - with the consent of the head of the relevant regional education department;
4. foreign citizens residing in the country for a long term and permanently.

(5) A teaching or educational position shall be held by persons with higher education in a specialty in a professional field according to the Classifier of the Fields of Higher Education and Professional Fields and the professional qualification "teacher".
(6) The professional qualification "teacher" is acquired in the higher education system:

1. simultaneously with the training for acquiring higher education at an educational and qualification level and the corresponding professional qualification and is certified by the higher education diploma;
2. after graduation - through training and passing a state exam and is certified with a certificate.

(7) The state requirements for acquiring the professional qualification "teacher" shall be determined by an ordinance of the Council of Ministers.
(8) A teaching position in a subject or module of professional training for which there is no corresponding professional field in the Classifier of Higher Education Fields and Professional Fields may also be held by persons without higher education and without a professional qualification "teacher", if they have acquired the relevant professional qualification under the terms and conditions of the Vocational Education and Training Act .
(9) A teaching position in a subject or module of vocational training, as well as in specialized training, may also be held by persons with a completed higher education in the relevant specialty and without a professional qualification "teacher".
(10) A teaching position in the subject Foreign Language, with the exception of English, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian and French, may also be held by persons with a completed higher education in the relevant specialty and without a professional qualification "teacher".
(11) A teaching position in sports training in sports schools may also be held by persons with a completed higher education in the relevant specialty and an acquired professional qualification as a "coach" in the relevant type of sport.
(12) In cases where a teaching position is held by persons without a professional qualification as a "teacher", the school shall prepare and implement a plan for the acquisition of pedagogical competencies by the relevant person.



Art. 214. (1) In kindergartens and schools of the pre-school and school education system, practical training shall be provided for:

1. students who are studying for a higher education degree in a professional field, respectively for the positions of pedagogical specialists;
2. persons who have acquired a higher education degree and are training to acquire a professional qualification as a "teacher".

(2) The persons under paragraph 1 who independently participate in the educational process under the guidance of a teacher-mentor are trainee teachers.

(3) For the organization and conduct of the practical training under paragraph 1, a contract shall be concluded between the relevant kindergarten or school and the higher education institution.



Art. 215. (1) A person may not hold the position of pedagogical specialist if:

1. has been convicted of an intentional crime of a general nature regardless of rehabilitation;
2. is deprived of the right to practice the profession;
3. suffers from diseases and abnormalities that endanger the life and health of children and students, determined by an ordinance issued by the Minister of Health in coordination with the Minister of Education and Science.

(2) The provision of para. 1, item 1 shall not apply to persons convicted in criminal cases referred to in art. 1 of the Law on Political and Civil Rehabilitation of Repressed Persons .

(3) In the event of a circumstance under paragraph 1, the employment relationship with the pedagogical specialist shall be terminated under the terms and conditions of the Labor Code .

(4) The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall also apply to the occupation of all other positions in kindergartens, schools, personal development support centers, including special educational support centers.



Art. 216. (1) Employment contracts with pedagogical specialists shall be concluded and terminated by the director of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center, and with pedagogical specialists in Bulgarian schools abroad - by the Minister of Education and Science.

(2) Employment contracts with pedagogical specialists in private kindergartens and schools shall be concluded and terminated by the body that manages and represents the relevant company, non-profit legal entity or cooperative.



Art. 217. (1) The Minister of Education and Science shall conclude and terminate employment contracts with the directors of specialized service units and of state schools, with the exception of state non-specialized schools, the Minister of Youth and Sports - with the directors of state sports schools, the Minister of Culture - with the directors of schools of arts and schools of culture, and the relevant financing body - with the directors of state kindergartens under Art. 35, para. 2 .

(2) The head of the regional education department shall conclude and terminate employment contracts with the principals of municipal schools, state non-specialized schools, state and municipal centers for special educational support, as well as the centers under Art. 49, para. 3 , whose activities are not organized by schools, as well as astronomical observatories.

(3) The mayor of the municipality shall conclude and terminate employment contracts with the directors of municipal kindergartens, of personal development support centers, with the exception of state and municipal centers for special educational support, and of the centers under Art. 49, para. 3 , whose activities are not organized by schools.

(4) The directors of private kindergartens and schools shall be appointed by the company, the non-profit legal entity or the cooperative.

(5) (Supplemented - SG No. 34/2022) The position of "director" in the state and municipal institutions under this Act shall be filled on the basis of a competition held under the terms and conditions of the Labor Code and an ordinance issued by the Minister of Education and Science, in coordination with the Minister of Youth and Sports and the Minister of Culture, by the bodies under Paragraph 1, 2 or 3 and with the participation of representatives of the public council of the kindergarten or school.

(6) The commission for conducting the competition for the position of "director" of a municipal school shall include representatives of the regional education department, designated by the head of the regional education department, of the municipal administration, designated by the mayor of the municipality, as well as a representative of the public council.

(7) The commission for conducting the competition for the position of "director" of state non-specialized schools shall include representatives designated by the financing body.



Art. 218. (1) The functions, professional profiles, positions and the professional qualification required for their occupation, as well as the conditions and procedure for improving the qualification, for their career development and for the attestation of pedagogical specialists, including the attestation criteria and the composition of the attestation commission, shall be determined by the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.

(2) The State Educational Standard for the Status and Professional Development of Teachers, Principals and Other Pedagogical Specialists shall determine the conditions and procedure for organizing and conducting practical training of trainee teachers under Art. 214 .

Section II. Rights and obligations



Art. 219. (1) Pedagogical specialists have the following rights:

1. their rights and dignity should be respected;
2. to determine the methods and means for conducting the educational process in accordance with the principles and goals set out in this law;
3. to participate in the formation of policies for the development of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center;
4. to receive professional support in the process of performing their official duties;
5. to improve their qualifications;
6. to be encouraged and rewarded.

(2) Pedagogical specialists have the following obligations:

1. to provide training and education for children and students in accordance with state educational standards;
2. to protect the life and health of children and students during the educational process and other activities organized by the institution;
3. to respect the rights and dignity of children, students and other participants in pre-school and school education and to cooperate and partner with stakeholders;
4. to maintain and improve their qualifications in accordance with the organizational development policies of the respective institution and the specific needs of the children and students with whom they work in order to improve the quality of their education;
5. (new - SG, issue 34 of 2022) when performing their functions in accordance with the current legislation, to be politically and party neutral, not to impose ideological and political beliefs, not to exert political or party influence on the participants in the educational process and not to use official resources for political or party purposes.

(3) Pedagogical specialists are entitled to respect and honor from students, parents, administrative bodies and the public.

(4) In the performance of their official duties, pedagogical specialists, deputy directors without a teaching quota and the chief accountant of state and municipal kindergartens and schools and of personal development support centers shall be entitled to representative clothing for each calendar year under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by an ordinance issued by the Minister of Education and Science in coordination with the Minister of Finance. The funds for the representative clothing shall be provided from the budget of the respective institution.

(5) (Amended - SG No. 99/2017, effective 01.01.2018) Pedagogical specialists who work in a settlement outside their place of residence shall be entitled to reimbursement of the expenses incurred by them for transportation from their place of residence to the place of work and back or for rent at the place of work in the amount, under the conditions and according to the procedure specified in an ordinance issued by the Minister of Education and Science in coordination with the Minister of Finance.

(6) Upon termination of the employment relationship with pedagogical specialists who, during the last 10 years of their work experience, have held the position of pedagogical specialist in a state or municipal institution funded by the budget of the preschool and school education system, a higher amount of compensation shall be paid under Art. 222, para. 3 of the Labor Code. - in the amount of 10 gross salaries.

(7) (New - SG, issue 34 of 2022) The provision of para. 2, item 5 shall also apply to the persons holding all other positions in the institutions of the pre-school and school education system.



Art. 220. (1) Except in the cases specified in this Act, a pedagogical specialist may not provide, for a fee, training or support within the meaning of Art. 178, para. 1, items 2 - 7 and 14 and Art. 187, para. 1, items 2 and 4, to children and students with whom he or she works in the kindergarten or in the school, if such payment is on behalf of and at the expense of the children and students, including with funds from the school board.

(2) A pedagogical specialist is not entitled to participate in the preparation and evaluation of examination materials and to carry out the verification and evaluation of examination papers if he/she has prepared students for their appearance at the relevant examination for a fee, if this payment is on behalf of and at the expense of the children and students.

(3) Within one month of the beginning of each school year, the pedagogical specialist shall submit to his employer a written declaration regarding the circumstance of whether, in return for payment on behalf of and at the expense of the children and students during the previous school year, he has provided training or support within the meaning of Art. 178, para. 1, items 2 - 7 and 14 and Art. 187, para. 1, items 2 and

4 to children and students and that these were not children and students with whom the pedagogical specialist worked in the kindergarten or school during the same period.

(4) Before engaging in activities under paragraph 2, the pedagogical specialist shall submit a declaration that he/she has not prepared students for their appearance at the relevant exam in return for payment from them or their parents.

(5) In case of establishing a violation of para. 1 and 2, as well as in cases of failure to submit the declaration under para. 3 or in case of submitting a declaration with false content, pedagogical specialists shall bear disciplinary liability under the Labor Code .

Section III.

Improving the qualifications of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists



Art. 221. (1) Advanced training is a continuous process of improving and enriching the competencies of pedagogical specialists for the effective fulfillment of the requirements of the work performed and for career development.

(2) The planning, coordination, management and control of activities for improving the qualification of pedagogical specialists are carried out at national, regional, municipal and school levels.

(3) Pedagogical specialists are obliged to annually improve their qualifications in order to improve the quality of their work and increase the results and quality of preparation of children and students.

(4) The directors of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers are obliged to provide the necessary conditions for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists.



Art. 222. (1) The improvement of the qualification of pedagogical specialists shall be carried out by specialized service units, by higher education institutions and scientific organizations. The improvement of the qualification of pedagogical specialists shall also be carried out by training organizations, whose training programs have been approved under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of this Chapter.

(2) The improvement of the qualification of pedagogical specialists under para. 1 shall be measured through a system of qualification credits and shall be certified by a document. The system of qualification credits shall be determined by the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.

(3) Pedagogical specialists are obliged to improve their qualifications under the programs of the organizations under paragraph 1 in no less than 48 academic hours for each attestation period.

(4) The state shall create conditions for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists under paragraph 3.

(5) The improvement of the qualification, carried out by organizations outside of para. 1, shall be recognized through qualification credits by the head of the relevant regional education department upon application by the pedagogical specialist under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for the status and development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.



Art. 223. (1) The improvement of the qualification of pedagogical specialists may also be organized by kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers through the exchange of good practices in various forms, as well as under international and national programs. Intra-institutional qualification is measured in academic hours and no qualification credits are awarded for it.

(2) Kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers are obliged to provide conditions for improving the qualification under paragraph 1 in no less than 16 academic hours per year for each pedagogical specialist.



Art. 224. (1) The improvement of qualifications shall be carried out according to programs and in forms chosen by the pedagogical specialist in accordance with the professional profile of the position held, with the professional development of the pedagogical specialist, with the result and recommendations of his/her attestation, as well as with the national, regional, municipal and school policy.

(2) The improvement of the qualification of the specific pedagogical specialist is also aimed at the progress of children and students, as well as at improving their educational results.



Art. 225. (1) Based on the achieved level of qualification, pedagogical specialists may acquire professional qualification degrees.
(2) The higher level of qualification is the basis for acquiring a higher professional qualification degree.
(3) Professional qualification degrees are awarded by higher education institutions that provide training for the acquisition of a professional qualification "teacher" and have program accreditations for conducting training for the acquisition of an educational and qualification degree "master" in a specialty in a professional field according to the Classifier of Higher Education Fields and Professional Fields and for the acquisition of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" in a doctoral program corresponding to a subject from school preparation.
(4) The professional qualification degrees and the conditions and procedure for their acquisition are determined by the state educational standard for the status and professional development of pedagogical specialists.



Art. 226. (1) The achieved competencies are reflected in the professional portfolio of the pedagogical specialist. The professional portfolio is compiled by the pedagogical specialist and includes developed materials that prove his active participation in the implementation of the policy of the kindergarten or school, his professional performances, his professional improvement and career growth, as well as the results achieved with the children and students.
(2) The professional portfolio supports the assessment and self-evaluation of the pedagogical specialist.
(3) The goals, functions and content of the professional portfolio are determined by the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.

Section IV.

Career development of pedagogical specialists



Art. 227. (1) Career development is a process of improving competencies in successively holding teaching or educational positions or in acquiring degrees with the aim of increasing the quality and effectiveness of education.
(2) The teaching and educational positions are:
1. teacher, educator;
2. senior teacher, senior educator;
3. head teacher, head educator.
(3) The provision of paragraph 2 shall also apply to the career development of resource and hospital teachers.
(4) The career development of pedagogical specialists, with the exception of teachers and educators, is carried out through the successive acquisition of second and first degrees. They are awarded by the employer. The degrees are not retained upon termination of the employment relationship.
(5) The basis for the career development of pedagogical specialists is the teaching experience, the qualification credits received, the acquired professional qualification degree, as well as the results of their attestation.
(6) The greater number of qualification credits and the higher professional qualification level are grounds for faster career development of pedagogical specialists, regardless of teaching experience.
(7) The conditions and procedure for occupying the teaching positions under para. 2 and for acquiring the degrees under para. 4, as well as for the faster career development of pedagogical specialists, shall be determined by the state educational standard for the status and development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.



Art. 228. (1) Appraisal is a process of assessing the compliance of the activities of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists with their professional profile, with the requirements for performing the position, as well as with the development strategy of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center, and for principals - also of their management competence.
(2) The attestation of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists shall be carried out every 4 years by an attestation commission appointed by the employer, in coordination with the pedagogical council, and its composition shall necessarily include:

1. representatives of the employer, of the financing body in cases where it is different from the employer, of the pedagogical council, of the regional education department, as well as a parent from the public council - when attesting the directors;
2. representatives of the employer, the regional education department and the pedagogical council - when attesting teachers and other pedagogical specialists.
- (3) The composition of the commission may also include other members specified in the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.
- (4) The procedure for appointing the commission under paragraph 2, the assessment scale, the criteria and the attestation procedure shall be determined in the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.
- (5) The assessment from the attestation, in addition to career development, can also serve as a guide for improving the qualification and encouraging the attested pedagogical specialist.
- (6) If the lowest rating is received from the attestation, the employer together with the attestation committee:
 1. analyze the reasons that led to the low score;
 2. develop a plan for methodological and organizational support for the teacher, principal or other pedagogical specialist who received a low grade;
 3. appoint a mentor or mentors to provide methodological and organizational support;
 4. submit to the regional education department within one month of the conduct of the attestation the documents under items 1, 2 and 3 to provide methodological support.
- (7) In the cases under para. 6, a re-attestation of the person shall be carried out one year after taking the measures under para. 6, items 1, 2 and 3.
- (8) If the lowest grade is again obtained in the attestation under para. 7, the person shall be dismissed from office under the conditions of art. 328, para. 1, item 5 of the Labor Code. .
- (9) If the assessment score is one grade higher than the lowest, the measures under paragraph 6, items 1, 2 and 3 shall apply.

Section V.

Information register of approved programs for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists



Art. 229. (1) The Minister of Education and Science shall organize the creation and maintenance of an information register of approved training programs for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists.

(2) The Minister of Education and Science may organize the maintenance of the register through its specialized service unit.

(3) The circumstances that are entered in the register under paragraph 1 shall be determined by the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.

(4) The register shall be published on the official website of the Ministry of Education and Science.



Art. 230. Training programs for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists for approval and entry in the register may be submitted by:

1. persons registered under the Commercial Act , the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act or the Cooperatives Act ;
2. persons established in accordance with the legislation of another Member State.



Art. 231. (1) The proceedings for approval of training programs for improving the qualification of pedagogical specialists shall commence upon a written application by the persons under Art. 230 .

(2) The application under paragraph 1 shall contain:

1. data about the legal entity - name (company), registered office and address of management, unique identification code or BULSTAT code;
2. name of the training program for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists;
3. description of the material, technical and information resources that guarantee the quality of the training.

(3) The following documents shall be attached to the application under paragraph 1:

1. training program for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists;

2. a list of trainers with attached professional CVs and documents of education and qualification, declarations certifying the consent of the persons to conduct the training, as well as at least three references for each of the trainers;
3. a document certifying the implementation of a certified quality management system.
- (4) Applications and the documents attached thereto may be submitted each year from the 1st to the 15th of November and April.



Art. 232. (1) The training program for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists submitted for approval must contain:

1. program annotation;
2. objectives of the program;
3. forms of training;
4. teaching methods;
5. indicators of the expected learning outcomes;
6. duration of training and number of hours;
7. number of qualification credits;
8. method of completing the training.

(2) The program annotation includes a theoretical and practical part, and the program must indicate the ratio between them.

(3) The objectives of the program must be aimed at developing the competencies defined in the professional profiles of pedagogical specialists.

(4) The forms and methods of training must ensure the achievement of the objectives under paragraph 3.

(5) The training must end with the issuance of a document certifying the number of qualification credits.



Art. 233. Trainers must possess:

1. higher education with a "Master's" educational and qualification degree and professional qualification that meets the objectives of the program;
2. professional experience related to the objectives of the program, acquired in practice or in conducting training.



Art. 234. The persons under Art. 230 must have a developed internal quality management system that meets the requirements of the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.



Art. 235. (1) Applications that do not contain all the required documents shall not be evaluated.

(2) If discrepancies are found in the submitted documents with the requirements of Articles 231 and 232, the applicant shall be notified in writing of the discrepancies and of the deadline for their elimination, which may not be shorter than 10 working days.



Art. 236. (1) The Minister of Education and Science or an official authorized by him shall rule within two months of the expiry of the relevant period under Art. 231, para. 4 , as follows:

1. issues an order for approval of the program;
2. refuses approval of the program.

(2) In the cases under Art. 232, para. 2, the time limit for adjudication shall begin to run from the date of elimination of the non-conformities or from the expiration of the time limit for their elimination.



Art. 237. (1) The training program shall be approved when the requirements of Art. 232 , 233 and 234 are met .

(2) On the basis of the approval order, the program shall be entered in the register under Art. 229, para. 1 .

(3) Training under an approved program under the terms and conditions of this section is grounds for awarding qualification credits.



Art. 238. (1) The Minister of Education and Science or an official authorized by him shall refuse to approve the training program when:

1. not all documents under Article 231 have been submitted ;
 2. the submitted documents are incomplete or not in the specified form and format;
 3. the requirements of Articles 232 , 233 and 234 have not been met .
- (2) The refusal under paragraph 1 shall be communicated under the terms and conditions of the Administrative Procedure Code .



Art. 239. Every year from the 1st to the 10th of June, the persons under Art. 230 who have approved programs shall submit an application as to whether they will provide training under the program during the next 12 months.



Art. 240. The programs approved under the terms and conditions of this section may be applied until their content or the trainers under Art. 231, para. 3, item 2 are changed .



Art. 241. (1) A change in the content of the approved program may be implemented only after approval by the Minister of Education and Science.

(2) A change in the content shall be approved under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of Articles 231 - 238 .



Art. 242. (1) A change of trainers under Art. 231, para. 3, item 2 may be carried out after approval by the Minister of Education and Science or by an official authorized by him.

(2) The proceedings for approval of the change under para. 1 shall commence upon an application by the person under Art. 230 , to which shall be attached a list of the new trainers under the program with attached professional CVs and documents for acquired education and qualification, declarations certifying the consent of the persons to conduct the training, as well as at least three references for each of the trainers.

(3) Applications for change of trainers shall be considered under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of Articles 232 and 234 .

(4) The Minister of Education and Science or an official authorized by him shall approve or refuse to approve the change of trainers within 14 days of submitting the application.



Art. 243. The persons under Art. 230 are obliged to apply for entry in the register of any change in their name or legal organizational form within 7 days of the occurrence of the circumstance.



Art. 244. (1) The Minister of Education and Science may carry out inspections through authorized officials for the implementation of the approved programs.

(2) The officials under paragraph 1 may carry out on-site inspections and have the right to:

1. access to the premises where the training takes place;
2. to require documents certifying the training provided;
3. to require written and oral explanations from all those who work for the person being inspected;
4. to request information from the trainees about the training being conducted.

(3) When non-implementation of the approved program or violations under Articles 233 and 234 are established , the officials under Paragraph 1 may issue mandatory prescriptions for the elimination of the violation within an appropriate period of time.

(4) In case of failure to comply with the provisions under para. 3, the Minister of Education and Science or an official authorized by him shall issue an order for deletion from the register under Art. 229, para. 1 .



Art. 245. (1) The approved programs shall be deleted from the register under Art. 229, para. 1 :

1. upon written application of the persons under Article 230 ;
2. in case of failure to submit the application under Article 239 within the deadline ;
3. upon submission of an application under Article 239 in two consecutive years that no training will be provided under the program.

(2) Upon approval and entry of a change in the content under the terms and conditions of this section, the program approved prior to the change shall be deleted from the register.

Section VI. Encouragement and awarding of pedagogical specialists



Art. 246. (1) Pedagogical specialists shall be encouraged with moral and material awards for high achievements in preschool and school education.

(2) The Minister of Education and Science and the Head of the Regional Department of Education may, by order, establish awards for pedagogical specialists at national or regional level, respectively.



Art. 247. (1) Pedagogical specialists may be awarded with distinctions and prizes for exemplary performance of their duties by order of their employer.

(2) The distinctions and awards under paragraph 1 shall be determined by the regulations for the activities of the institution, and for the directors of the institutions - by the regulations of the regional departments of education.

Chapter Twelve. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS



Art. 248. (1) Documents in the system of preschool and school education shall be created, processed and stored in compliance with the state educational standard for information and documents.

(2) The state educational standard under paragraph 1 shall regulate:

1. the types of documents in the system of preschool and school education;
2. the requirements for the form and content of each of the documents under item 1;
3. the conditions and procedure for keeping information registers;
4. the conditions and procedure for accepting, reporting and destroying documents with factory numbering;
5. documents that are created, processed and stored in electronic form.



Art. 249. Documents issued or kept by institutions in the system of preschool and school education shall be completed in the Bulgarian literary language, except for the cases provided for in this law.



Art. 250. (1) The Ministry of Education and Science shall organize the maintenance of a national electronic information system for preschool and school education.

(2) The maintenance of the national electronic information system under paragraph 1 shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for information and documents.

Chapter Thirteen. MANAGEMENT BODIES



Art. 251. (1) The state policy in the field of preschool and school education shall be implemented by the Council of Ministers.

(2) The Minister of Education and Science shall submit to the National Assembly, once every two years, by 31 March, a report on the implementation of the principles and the achievement of the objectives of pre-school and school education in accordance with this Act. The report shall also contain a plan with deadlines for undertaking specific actions to eliminate the discrepancies.

- (3) The Minister of Education and Science shall direct and coordinate the implementation of the state policy in the field of pre-school and school education. The Minister of Education and Science is a specialized body for the management of the pre-school and school education system.
- (4) The Minister of Education and Science shall exercise control over the activities of all institutions in the system of preschool and school education.
- (5) The Minister of Education and Science shall exercise control over the compliance of the activities of theological schools with the requirements of this law.
- (6) Employees in employment and service relationships in expert and managerial positions in the Ministry of Education and Science may not provide paid training or support within the meaning of Art. 178, para. 1, items 2 - 7 and 14 and Art. 187, para. 1, items 2 and 4 to children and students.



- Art. 252.** (1) The regional departments of education are territorial administrations under the Minister of Education and Science for management and control of the system of preschool and school education.
- (2) The regional departments of education also provide methodological support to kindergartens, schools, regional centers for supporting the process of inclusive education and centers for supporting personal development in the relevant area.
- (3) The methodological support under paragraph 2 shall also be implemented through the participation of experts from the regional departments of education in the conduct of classes and in the implementation of inclusive education activities under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the regulations of the regional departments of education.
- (4) The regional education departments provide methodological support for the implementation of the guidelines of the National Education Inspectorate.
- (5) For Bulgarian schools abroad, the functions under paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 shall be performed by the Minister of Education and Science.



- Art. 253.** (1) The regional departments of education are legal entities supported by the budget of the Minister of Education and Science.
- (2) The structure and functions of the regional departments of education, as well as the districts on whose territory they carry out their activities, shall be determined by regulations of the Minister of Education and Science.



- Art. 254.** (1) The heads of the regional education departments are civil servants and are appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Education and Science.
- (2) (Supplemented - SG, issue 34 of 2022) In the performance of their functions and powers, the heads of the regional education departments shall issue orders.
- (3) The head of a regional education department may not provide paid training or support within the meaning of Art. 178, para. 1, items 2 - 7 and 14 and Art. 187, para. 1, items 2 and 4 to children and students.
- (4) (New - SG, issue 34 of 2022) The head of a regional education department, when performing his functions in accordance with the current legislation, may not carry out political and party activities and is obliged to be politically neutral. The head of a regional education department may not use his official position to exert political or party influence on the institutions and participants in the educational process and use official resources for political or party purposes.



- Article 255.** (1) Employees shall be appointed to the regional education departments on an employment and service basis.
- (2) The authority for appointing civil servants in the regional departments of education is the Minister of Education and Science.
- (3) The employer of the employees under an employment relationship is the head of the regional education department.
- (4) An employee in a regional education department may not provide paid training or support within the meaning of Art. 178, para. 1, items 2 - 7 and 14 and Art. 187, para. 1, items 2 and 4 to children and students.
- (5) (New - SG, issue 34 of 2022) An employee in a regional education department, when performing his functions in accordance with the current legislation, may not carry out political and party activities and is obliged to be politically neutral. The employee may not use his official position to exert political or party influence on the institutions and participants in the educational process and use official resources for political or party purposes.



Art. 256. (1) Local government bodies shall ensure and control:

1. the conditions and organization of activities in preschool education in municipal kindergartens;
 2. the scope of children and students subject to compulsory pre-school and school education;
 3. the conditions for the functioning and development of municipal personal development support centers;
 4. the financing of activities delegated by the state and of local educational activities;
 5. the necessary property for the functioning of municipal institutions in accordance with the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers;
 6. the conditions for the full-day organization of the school day;
 7. the safety of children and students in kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers;
 8. health care for children and students in kindergartens and schools;
 9. the conditions for children's and students' meals, recreation and sports;
 10. free transportation for children and students under the terms of this law;
 11. the spending and distribution of other earmarked funds from the budget;
 12. the implementation of the municipal program for support for the personal development of children and students in the system of preschool and school education and the implementation of local policies.
- (2) The mayors of the municipalities shall coordinate the state admission plan for the schools under Art. 142, Para. 3, Items 1 and 5 , as well as the additional state admission plan for the schools under Art. 142, Para. 4 .
- (3) The mayors of the municipalities shall exercise control over the manner of spending the funds provided to the municipal kindergartens and schools, to the municipal centers for support for personal development, including if there is an assignment under the procedure of Art. 198, para. 2 , as well as to the private kindergartens and schools that receive budget funds.
- (4) The local self-government bodies and the local administration shall also exercise other powers provided for in this law and in other normative acts.



Article 257. (1) The director shall be the body for management and control of state and municipal institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

- (2) The director under paragraph 1 shall manage and represent the relevant institution.
- (3) The bodies for management and control of private kindergartens and schools shall be determined by the law under which they were established.
- (4) Educational activities in private kindergartens and schools shall be managed by a director.



Art. 258. (1) The director of a state and municipal kindergarten, of a state and municipal school and of a personal development support center shall organize and control the overall activity of the institution in accordance with the powers defined by the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists.

(2) The director of a private kindergarten and a private school shall manage the educational activity in the institution within the framework of the powers determined by the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, directors and other pedagogical specialists. The relevant bodies of the commercial company, the non-profit legal entity or the cooperative may also authorize the director with other powers related to the management, representation and control of the institution.

(3) The director of a specialized service unit shall organize and control the overall activity of the institution in accordance with the regulations on the organization and activity of the unit.



Article 259. (1) In the exercise of his powers, the director shall issue orders.

(2) The administrative acts of the directors of institutions in the system of preschool and school education may be contested administratively before:

1. the Minister of Education and Science - for the state schools under Article 43 , for the state non-specialized schools, for theological schools, for the state centers for special educational support and for the specialized service units;
2. the Minister of Culture - for the schools of arts and for the schools of culture;
3. the Minister of Youth and Sports - for the state sports schools;
4. the Minister of Defense or the relevant financing authority - for state kindergartens;
5. the head of the regional education department - for private kindergartens, for private and municipal schools and for municipal centers for special educational support;

6. the mayor of the municipality - for the municipal kindergartens and for the personal development support centers, with the exception of the municipal centers for special educational support.
(3) The administrative acts of the directors of the institutions under para. 2 may be appealed under the procedure of the Administrative Procedure Code .



Art. 260. In the management and control of educational, educational-production, educational-creative, sports and administrative-economic activities, the director may be assisted by one or several deputy directors.



Art. 261. (1) In the absence of the director of a state and municipal kindergarten, of a state and municipal school and of a personal development support center for a period of less than 60 calendar days, he shall be replaced by a deputy director designated by order for each specific case, and if impossible - by a pedagogical specialist from the institution designated by order. The order shall be issued by the director, and if impossible - by the relevant body under Art. 217, para. 1 - 4 .
(2) In the absence of the director of a state and municipal kindergarten, of a state and municipal school or of a personal development support center for a period longer than the period under para. 1, the relevant body under Art. 217, paras. 1 - 4 shall conclude an employment contract with another person for temporary performance of the position of "director".
(3) In the absence of the director of a private kindergarten or a private school, his/her deputy shall be appointed by the relevant bodies of the company, the non-profit legal entity or the cooperative.



Art. 262. (1) The pedagogical council is a specialized body for examining and resolving basic pedagogical issues in the kindergarten, school and personal development support center.
(2) (Supplemented - SG, issue 17 of 2020) The pedagogical council shall include in its composition all pedagogical specialists and deputy directors without a teaching quota. In schools with an agreement under Art. 28, para. 3, persons holding academic positions who provide training in the school may also participate in the meetings of the pedagogical council with the right to an advisory vote.
(3) The director of the kindergarten, the school or the personal development support center shall be the chairman of the pedagogical council.
(4) Representatives of the public council, the board of trustees, the medical professional serving the school, kindergarten or personal development support center, students, as well as other persons may participate in the meetings of the pedagogical council with the right to an advisory vote.
(5) The director of the kindergarten, the school or the personal development support center, in his capacity as chairman of the pedagogical council, shall invite in writing the representatives of the public council and the board of trustees to the meetings of the pedagogical council, providing them with the most complete information possible on the issues to be discussed.



Art. 263. (1) The pedagogical council in the school:
1. (amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) adopts a school development strategy for the next 5 years with an action and financing plan attached to it;
2. adopts regulations for the activities of the school;
3. adopts the school curriculum;
4. accepts the forms of training;
5. adopts the annual plan for the school's activities;
6. adopts curricula for individual forms of training;
7. (repealed - SG, issue 11 of 2023)
8. (repealed - SG, issue 11 of 2023)
9. (repealed - SG, issue 11 of 2023)
10. suggests to the director the discovery of activities based on interests;
11. makes proposals to the principal for rewarding students and for imposing the relevant sanctions in the cases provided for in this law;
12. determines school symbols and rituals and other distinctive signs;
13. determines student uniforms;
14. participates with its representatives in the creation and adoption of a code of ethics for the school community;
15. familiarizes himself with the budget of the kindergarten, the school and the personal development support center, as well as with the reports on its implementation;

16. periodically, at least three times during an academic year, monitors and discusses the level of competence acquisition by students and proposes joint measures between teachers in order to improve educational outcomes;

17. exercises other powers defined by a regulatory act.

(2) The pedagogical council of the kindergarten and of the personal development support center shall exercise the powers under paragraph 1 in accordance with the subject matter of its activity.

(3) (Amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) The documents under para. 1, items 1 - 5 shall be published on the website of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center.

(4) (New - SG, issue 11 of 2023) The strategy for the development of the kindergarten or school shall be developed to implement strategic goals and goals specific to the institution, at least along the following lines:

1. quality of education and measures to improve it;

2. patriotic education, formation of national self-awareness and universal human values of children and students;

3. providing conditions for physical activity and participation in sports activities;

4. civic, health, environmental and intercultural education;

5. a mechanism for joint work with institutions to cover and include children and students of compulsory preschool and school age in the system of preschool and school education;

6. providing equal opportunities for training and/or education;

7. inclusion of children and students;

8. countering bullying and violence;

9. prevention of the risk of early dropout from the preschool and school education system.

(5) (New - SG, issue 11 of 2023) The development strategy of the personal development support center shall be developed according to strategic goals and institution-specific goals, covering at least the guidelines under para. 4, items 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

(6) (New - SG, issue 11 of 2023) The tasks for achieving the objectives under paragraph 4 shall be planned in the strategy by years, with the results being reported at the end of each academic year.



Art. 264. (1) (Amended - SG, issue 24 of 2019, effective 01.07.2020, amended on entry into force - SG, issue 101 of 2019) When there is an assignment under the procedure of Art. 198, para. 1, the Minister of Education and Science and the heads of the regional departments of education shall also exercise control over the activities of the contractors under Art. 198, para. 1 and of the providers of social services licensed under the procedure of the Social Services Act.

(2) The subject of control under paragraph 1 is compliance with the state educational standard for inclusive education.

(3) Upon detection of violations, the Minister of Education and Science, the head of the regional education department, or officials authorized by them, shall issue mandatory instructions and set a deadline for their implementation. The mandatory instructions must be accompanied by methodological instructions for their implementation.

(4) The mandatory prescriptions under paragraph 3 may be appealed under the procedure of the Administrative Procedure Code.

Chapter Fourteen. PUBLIC COUNCILS



Art. 265. (1) In order to create conditions for active and democratically functioning communities, a public council shall be established at each kindergarten and each school.

(2) The Public Council is a body for supporting the development of the kindergarten and the school and for civil control of their management.



Art. 266. (1) The public council shall consist of an odd number of members and shall include one representative of the funding body and at least three representatives of the parents of children and students of the relevant institution. The public council of a school providing training for the acquisition of professional qualifications shall also include a representative of the employers.

(2) The parents' representatives shall be elected by a parents' meeting convened by the director of the kindergarten and the school. The meeting shall determine the number of parents' representatives and shall also elect reserve members of the public council.

- (3) The representatives of the employers shall be appointed by the regional governor upon proposal of the representative organizations of the employers.
- (4) The chairman of the public council shall be elected by its members.
- (5) The members of the public council shall be appointed for a term not exceeding three years.



Art. 267. (1) The Public Council shall convene for a meeting at least 4 times a year, and shall necessarily hold a meeting at the beginning of the school year.

(2) At least three representatives of the student self-government shall participate in the work of the public council of schools with the right to an advisory vote.

(3) A representative of the board of trustees shall also participate in the work of the public council of schools and kindergartens with the right to an advisory vote.

(4) Employees of the institution, the regional education department, experts, employers, trade unions, non-profit legal entities and other interested persons may also be invited to the meetings of the public council.



Art. 268. (1) The director of the kindergarten or school has the right to attend the meetings of the public council and express an opinion on the issues under consideration.

(2) The director shall be obliged, upon request by the public council, to provide all information and documents necessary for its activities.

(3) If necessary, the director may submit a request to the chairman of the public council for its convening.



Art. 269. (1) The public council in the kindergarten and school:

1. approves the development strategy of the kindergarten or school and accepts the annual report of the director on its implementation;

2. (amended - SG, issue 11 of 2023) participate in the work of the pedagogical council in discussing the strategy for development of the kindergarten or school, in the part under Art. 263, para. 4, items 6 and 9 and in discussing the choice of student uniforms;

3. proposes policies and measures to improve the quality of the educational process based on the results of the self-evaluation of the institution, external evaluation - for schools, and the inspection of the kindergarten or school;

4. gives an opinion on the allocation of the budget by activities and the amount of capital expenditures, as well as on the report on its implementation - for the institutions of a delegated budget and for the private kindergartens and private schools that receive funds from the state budget;

5. agrees with the director's proposal for the distribution of funds from the excess of receipts over payments under the school or kindergarten budget established at the end of the previous year;

6. coordinates the school curriculum;

7. participates with representatives in the commissions for the attestation of principals under the terms and conditions of the state educational standard for the status and professional development of teachers, principals and other pedagogical specialists;

8. coordinate the selection by the teachers in the school under Art. 164, para. 2 of the textbooks and teaching kits;

9. signals the competent authorities when, in carrying out its activities, it finds violations of the regulatory acts;

10. gives an opinion on the school admission plan under Art. 143, para. 1 ;

11. participates in the creation and adoption of a code of ethics for the school community.

(2) If the public council does not approve the acts under para. 1, items 1 and 6, they shall be returned with reasons for re-examination by the pedagogical council. Upon re-examination, the pedagogical council shall rule on the reasons and make a final decision.

(3) The public council in the private kindergarten and in the private school shall exercise its authority under paragraph 1, item 4 only for the funds received from the state budget.



Art. 270. The conditions and procedure for the establishment, organization and activities of the public council shall be regulated by regulations issued by the Minister of Education and Science.

Chapter Fifteen. QUALITY MANAGEMENT



Art. 271. (1) Quality management is a continuous process of organizational development, based on analyzing, planning, implementing activities, evaluating and making improvements in the work of kindergartens and schools.

(2) The analysis, planning, implementation of activities and the introduction of improvements in the work of kindergartens and schools shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for quality management in institutions.

(3) The assessment is carried out through self-assessment and inspection.

(4) Self-assessment shall be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for quality management in institutions, and inspection - under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for the inspection of kindergartens and schools.



Art. 272. Self-evaluation is aimed at preparing an internal assessment of the quality of the education provided through activities, procedures and criteria determined by the kindergarten or school.



Art. 273. (1) Inspection is a process of preparing a comprehensive independent expert assessment of the quality of education provided by the kindergarten or school at a certain point in their activity and determining the guidelines for improvement.

(2) Inspection is carried out according to criteria and indicators, grouped by inspection areas.

(3) Every 5 years, at least one inspection shall be carried out of each kindergarten and each school.



Art. 274. (1) For the purpose of carrying out inspections, a National Inspectorate for Education shall be established as a legal entity financed by the budget of the Council of Ministers with its headquarters in Sofia.

(2) The National Inspectorate of Education shall be managed and represented by a director, who shall be the body for external inspection of kindergartens and schools.

(3) The Director of the National Inspectorate of Education is a civil servant and is appointed and dismissed by the Prime Minister.

(4) In the exercise of his powers, the Director of the National Inspectorate of Education shall issue orders.

(5) The Director of the National Inspectorate of Education:

1. develops, approves and improves inspection criteria and indicators;

2. organizes and conducts inspections of kindergartens and schools;

3. provides the assessment and guidelines from the inspection to the director of the kindergarten or school and to the head of the relevant regional education department;

4. notify the relevant regional education department when:

a) violations of the regulations in the system of preschool and school education are identified during the inspection process;

b) methodological support is needed to implement the inspection guidelines;

c) the established level of teaching and acquisition of competencies by students does not provide access to quality education in the relevant school and measures are required to improve the results;

5. provides the Minister of Education and Science and the Council of Ministers with an analysis of the quality of education in the inspected kindergartens and schools for a certain period, in a certain region or for the country;

6. publishes on its official website summarized information on the assessments and on the guidelines on inspection areas;

7. performs other functions defined in a regulatory act or assigned by the Minister of Education and Science.



Article 275. (1) Each inspection shall be carried out by internal and external inspectors.

(2) Internal inspectors are civil servants in the National Inspectorate of Education and are appointed and dismissed by its director.

(3) External inspectors shall be appointed for each specific inspection under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the regulations under Article 279 .



Art. 276. (1) An external inspector may be a person:

1. with higher education with a "Master's" educational and qualification degree;
2. with professional experience in a field corresponding to the inspected activity, not less than 5 years;
3. successfully completed training at the National Education Inspectorate.

(2) A person who has been subject to a disciplinary penalty under the Labor Code or the Civil Servant Act for a period of one year prior to the inspection may not perform activities as an external inspector.

(3) External inspectors shall carry out their activities after concluding a contract with the Director of the National Inspectorate of Education for each inspection.



Art. 277. (1) A person may not be appointed as a member of the team of inspectors for a specific inspection if:

1. held a position in the inspected institution;
2. is a spouse or is in a de facto cohabitation, or is a relative in a direct line, in a collateral line up to the fourth degree inclusive, or by marriage up to the second degree inclusive, of a person whose work is subject to inspection.

(2) A person who works under an employment or service relationship on the territory of the administrative-territorial area in which the inspected institution is located may not be appointed as a member of the team of inspectors for the specific inspection as an external inspector.

(3) The circumstances under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be certified by a declaration.



Art. 278. (1) During and in connection with the inspections carried out, inspectors have the right:

1. free access to all activities of the kindergarten or school and to all documents of the kindergarten or school;
2. to request, within the time limits set by them, reports, certified copies of documents and other information in connection with the performance of the inspection, including on an electronic medium;
3. to study the opinions of pedagogical specialists, students, parents and representatives of the public council through meetings and conversations, as well as the completion of questionnaires and evaluation and self-evaluation questionnaires.

(2) The director and all employees in the kindergarten or school are obliged to assist the inspectors in exercising their powers and to provide appropriate premises and technical means for carrying out the inspections.



Art. 279. The structure and functions of the National Inspectorate of Education, the rights and obligations of the inspectors shall be determined by regulations adopted by the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Science.

Chapter Sixteen.

FINANCING AND PROPERTY (IN FORCE FROM 01.01.2017)

Section I.

Financing (Effective from 01.01.2017)



Art. 280. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) Activities in the system of preschool and school education shall be financed with funds from the state budget, the budgets of municipalities, European funds and programs and other sources.

(2) Funds from the state budget shall be used to fully or partially finance activities that are the subject of state policy.

(3) The funds from the state budget are for:

1. maintenance of the activities of upbringing and education of children and students;
2. promoting equal access and support for personal development;
3. development of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers;
4. implementation of national education development programs.



Art. 281. (Effective from 01.01.2017) The funds from the state budget for financing activities in the system of preschool and school education shall be planned annually in an amount not lower in amount and as a percentage of the gross domestic product than that set out in the state budget for the previous year.



Art. 282. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective from 01.01.2018) The funds under Art. 280, para. 3, item 1 shall be distributed between the budgets of the primary budget spending authorities financing state and municipal schools and kindergartens, on the basis of:

1. the number of children and students;
2. the number of groups and classes;
3. the type and number of educational institutions;
4. standard for a child and a student;
5. standard for group and class;
6. standard for an educational institution.

(2) The activities that are financed in whole or in part from the state budget according to standards are determined by the state educational standard for the financing of institutions.

(3) (New - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The dimensions of the standards shall be determined by an act of the Council of Ministers.

(4) (Previous para. 3 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, in force from 01.01.2018) The dimensions of the standards shall be determined depending on:

1. the content of the activities for the upbringing and education of children and students;
2. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) the type and specifics of the school or kindergarten;
3. (new - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) the form of training;
4. (previous item 3 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) the professional field of training;
5. (previous item 4, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) geographical and demographic characteristics of the settlement, municipality and region in which the educational institution is located, leading to differences in the costs necessary to ensure equal access to education;
6. (new - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) the need for pedagogical specialists to carry out the activities of upbringing and training of children and students.

(5) (Repealed, previous para. 4 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) Not less than two-thirds of the funds under Art. 280, para. 3, item 1 shall be distributed among the budgets of the primary spending authorities with a budget based on the number of children and students and an expenditure standard per child and student.

(6) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The primary budget spending authorities shall distribute the funds received under paragraph 1 between schools and kindergartens on the basis of formulas for each activity. The formulas shall include basic and additional components.

(7) The formulas under para. 6 shall be approved by the primary budget spending authorities by 28 February of the current year after discussion with the directors of kindergartens and schools. The approved formulas shall be applied from the beginning of the budget year and may not be changed until the end thereof.

(8) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The main component of each formula shall be the funds received under paragraph 1 from the primary budget spending authority for the respective kindergarten or school.

(9) (New - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The additional components of the formula differentiate the funds received under paragraph 1, and may be objective geographical, demographic, infrastructure and other indicators determining differences in costs between kindergartens and schools, or indicators reflecting the national and municipal educational policy. The additional components are not mandatory.

(10) (Previous para. 9 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The funds under para. 6 for each activity shall be distributed:

1. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) not less than 85 percent - based on the main component of the formulas;
2. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) the remaining up to 15 percent - based on additional components of the formula.

(11) (Previous para. 10, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) As part of the additional components of the formula for the relevant activity, a reserve for irregular expenses may be provided in the amount of up to two percent of the funds for the relevant activity. The funds from the reserve that are not allocated as of November 15 of the current year shall be provided to the schools and kindergartens for the relevant activity, distributed proportionally to the number of children and students.

(12) (Previous para. 11 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, in force from 01.01.2018) As part of the additional components of the formulas, funds of up to 0.5 percent are provided for financing speech therapy offices.

(13) (Previous para. 12 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, in force from 01.01.2018) As part of the formulas, the following are also approved:

1. the conditions and procedure for distributing the funds under the individual additional components included in the relevant formula, including the reserve;
2. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) rules for changes in the distribution of funds between schools and kindergartens upon changes in the parameters of the main component of the formula.

(14) (New - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) In addition to the funds allocated under paragraphs 1 - 13, state and municipal kindergartens and schools shall receive additional funding for:

1. working with children and students from vulnerable groups;
2. (amended - SG, issue 27 of 2024) maintenance of classes for acquiring qualifications in protected professions and professions for which there is an expected shortage of specialists on the labor market;
3. maintenance of protected kindergartens and schools.

(15) (New - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The rules for the distribution of funds under para. 14, item 1 shall be determined by the state educational standard for the financing of institutions, the funds under para. 14, item 2 - by the act under art. 6a, item 2 of the Vocational Education and Training Act, and the funds under para. 14, item 3 - by the act under art. 54, item 5.

(16) (New - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The number of children, groups and classes, as well as educational institutions, on the basis of which the funds under paragraphs 1 and 6 are distributed, shall be determined based on data from the national electronic information system of the Ministry of Education and Science as of 1 January of the current year.

(17) (New - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The number of students on the basis of which the funds under paragraphs 1 and 6 are distributed shall be determined based on data from the national electronic information system of the Ministry of Education and Science as of 1 January of the current year for:

1. enrolled students;
2. students who have been sanctioned under Art. 199, para. 1, item 4.

(18) (Repealed, previous para. 13, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) In cases of differences between the estimated number of children and students, groups and classes, as well as educational institutions, on the basis of which the funds under para. 1 are provided for by the law on the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria for the relevant year, and the data under paras. 16 and 17, compensated changes shall be made to the relevant budgets and to the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science for the amount of funds necessary to eliminate these differences.

(19) (Repealed, previous para. 14, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018, amended - SG, issue 17 of 2020) When the estimated number of children and students, groups and classes, as well as educational institutions is higher than their number according to the information system, until the changes under para. 18 are made, the primary budget spending officer shall set aside as a reserve the difference from the funds formed according to the relevant standard.

(20) (Previous para. 15, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, in force from 01.01.2018, amended - SG, issue 17 of 2020) When the calculated number of children and students, groups and classes, as well as educational institutions is lower than their number according to the information system, the funds according to the formula for the relevant activity shall be distributed, with the shortfall being distributed proportionally to the funds according to the formula until the changes under para. 18 are made.

(21) (Previous para. 16, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) Changes in the distribution of funds by formula during the budget year as a result of changes in the number of children and students, as well as groups and classes are allowed only in the following cases:

1. (suppl. - SG, issue 99 of 2017, in force from 01.01.2018) transfer of a child or student between institutions financed by the same primary budget spending authority, with the exception of cases of transfer of a student to another school pursuant to the procedure of Art. 199, para. 1, item 4;
2. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) when at the beginning of the school year it is necessary to finance a larger number of children or students, and of groups or classes in some institutions financed by the same primary budget spending authority.

(22) (Previous para. 17 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, in force from 01.01.2018) Formulas shall not be approved for activities for which the recipient of the funds is only one school or kindergarten or are provided for private schools or kindergartens.

(23) (Previous para. 20 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, in force from 01.01.2018) The Council of Ministers may approve additional requirements to the formulas under para. 6 and rules for the allocation of funds under them, as well as additional requirements to be met by the systems of the delegated budgets.

(24) (Previous para. 21 - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) In addition to the funds under para. 6, the budgets of state and municipal schools and kindergartens applying a delegated budget system shall also include expenses for the account of:

1. the excess of receipts over payments under the school or kindergarten budget established at the end of the previous year;
2. the school's or kindergarten's own revenues;

3. additional funding, beyond the funds under Art. 280, para. 3 , provided at the expense of other funds under the budget of the financing body;
4. the funds due to the school budget, not transferred by the financing body at the end of the previous year.

(25) (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) Schools with an agreement under Art. 28, para. 3 shall transfer to higher education institutions funds for the part of the remuneration of the persons holding an academic position who provide training at the school.



Art. 283. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The means for supporting equal access and supporting personal development include:

1. student scholarships;
2. transportation of children and students;
3. purchase of educational books, textbooks and educational kits for free use and for the school library;
4. full-day organization of the school day and meals;
5. activities related to general support for personal development;
6. activities related to additional support for personal development;
7. activities related to student recreation and sports;
8. implementation of school programs to prevent school dropout and reduce the number of early school leavers;
9. support for students with outstanding talents;
10. (new - SG, issue 82 of 2020, repealed - SG, issue 17 of 2022, in force from 01.04.2022)
11. (new - SG, issue 82 of 2020, effective 01.01.2021) compensation for the costs of raising and educating children who are not accepted due to a lack of places for preschool education in state and municipal kindergartens and schools;
12. (previous item 10 - SG, issue 82 of 2020) other activities contributing to increasing the scope and equal access to education.

(2) (Supplemented - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018, amended - SG, issue 100 of 2019, effective 01.01.2020, amended - SG, issue 27 of 2024) For children of compulsory preschool age and for students from settlements where there is no kindergarten or school, funds shall be provided from the state budget for transportation to the nearest kindergarten or school that provides education in the relevant group or in the relevant class, and vice versa. Funds from the state budget for transport are also provided for students who travel daily to a school in another settlement in the same or a neighboring administrative-territorial region, where they are trained to acquire a qualification in a profession, and vice versa, if such training is not conducted in the settlement in which the student lives, or if the student is trained in a protected profession or a profession for which there is an expected shortage of specialists on the labor market, and in the settlement in which he or she lives, there is no organized vocational education in the same or another protected profession for which there is an expected shortage of specialists on the labor market.

(3) (Amended - SG, issue 100 of 2019, effective 01.01.2020) The funds under para. 1, items 1, 3 and 9, as well as the funds under para. 1, item 6 in their part for the implementation of activities for resource support for children and students with special educational needs, shall also be provided to private kindergartens and schools.

(4) The funds for the implementation of the activities for resource support for children and students with special educational needs shall be provided to the kindergartens and schools in which they are educated.

(5) When the kindergarten or school cannot provide the resource support in accordance with the state educational standard for inclusive education, the funds under para. 4 shall be provided to the relevant municipality for organizing the resource support from a personal development support center, respectively to the special educational support center in the cases under Art. 195 on the territory of the relevant municipality or for assignment under the terms and conditions of Art. 198 .

(6) When the municipality cannot provide resource support in accordance with the state educational standard for inclusive education under the conditions of paragraph 5, the funds for the implementation of resource support activities shall be provided to the relevant regional center for supporting the process of inclusive education.

(7) (Amended - SG, issue 24 of 2019, effective 01.07.2020, amended regarding entry into force - SG, issue 101 of 2019, amended - SG, issue 82 of 2020) The funds for the implementation of the activities under para. 1, items 5, 6 and 12 may be provided to providers of social services for children licensed under the Social Services Act upon assignment under the procedure of Art. 198, paragraphs 2 and 3 .

(8) (Supplemented - SG, issue 82 of 2020) The terms and conditions for the provision and distribution of the funds under paragraph 1 shall be determined by the Council of Ministers for the funds from the state budget and/or in accordance with the rules for financing from the relevant European fund or program.

(9) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020, repealed - SG, issue 17 of 2022, in force from 01.04.2022)

(10) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020, repealed - SG, issue 17 of 2022, in force from 01.04.2022)

(11) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020, repealed - SG, issue 17 of 2022, in force from 01.04.2022)

(12) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020, effective 01.01.2021) The state shall provide funds to the parents of children from the age of three until their entry into grade I to compensate for the costs directly related to their upbringing and education, when:

1. the child has not been accepted for the relevant school year due to a lack of available places for full-day or half-day preschool education in a state or municipal kindergarten or school for which he/she has applied, and
2. the municipality of the child's place of residence has not offered another equivalent place in a municipal kindergarten or school.

(13) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020, effective 01.01.2021) The monthly amount of funds under para. 12 for one child may not exceed the average monthly amount of funds from the state budget for the maintenance of a child in preschool education in municipal and state kindergartens and schools for the respective calendar year, which shall be determined by an order of the Minister of Education and Science. The order shall be published on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science.

(14) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020, effective 01.01.2021) The funds under para. 12 shall be paid to the parent in the amount of the actual expenses incurred for raising and training for each month, but not more than the amount under para. 13. The funds shall be paid until the child is admitted to a state or municipal kindergarten or school.

(15) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020, effective 01.01.2021) The terms and conditions for the provision and payment of the funds under paragraph 12 shall be determined by an ordinance of the Council of Ministers.



Art. 284. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The funds for the development of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers include:

1. costs for improving the material base;
2. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) means for improving the quality of education and educational outcomes;
3. funds for the development and support of pedagogical specialists under Art. 219, para. 5 ;
4. library and information provision;
5. other expenses aimed at improving the physical environment and the educational process.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The funds under para. 1, item 2 shall be provided to kindergartens and schools that have high, low or increasing educational results, and shall be used as follows:

1. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) from kindergartens and schools with high, as well as increasing educational results - at their discretion for additional financing of their activities and/or for encouraging pedagogical specialists;
2. from kindergartens and schools with low educational results - targeted for the implementation of programs or individual measures to increase educational results.

(3) (Supplemented - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The funds under para. 1, item 2, provided for kindergartens and schools with low educational results, shall be spent after a previously approved allocation by the primary budget spending authority and may not be used to increase the salaries of pedagogical specialists.

(4) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The educational results under para. 2 shall be determined according to a methodology approved by the state educational standard for the financing of institutions. An obligatory element of the methodology is the assessment from the inspection, and for schools - also the results of the training.

(5) The terms and conditions for the distribution of the funds under paragraph 1 shall be determined by the Council of Ministers for the funds from the state budget and/or in accordance with the rules for financing from the relevant European fund or program.



Art. 285. (Effective from 01.01.2017, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective from 01.01.2018) The funds under Art. 283, para. 1 and Art. 284, para. 1 may be provided on the basis of supplementary standards or norms for a child or student, determined by the act under Art. 282, para. 3 and the number of children and students. In these cases, the provision of Art. 282, para. 18 shall apply .



Art. 286. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The funds from the state budget for national education development programs shall include the expenses from the state budget for the implementation of national measures and activities, the objectives of which cannot be achieved to the desired extent if financed within the funds under Art. 280, para. 3, items 1, 2 and 3 .

(2) The funds under paragraph 1 may be used to encourage the development and support the financing of municipal programs for the development of education, when the measures and activities under the

national program require them to be planned, organized and implemented most effectively at the municipal level.

(3) The programs under paragraph 1 shall be approved by the Council of Ministers.



Art. 287. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective from 01.01.2018) The funds from the state budget for supporting the activities for the upbringing and education of children and students in private kindergartens and schools shall be determined from the budgets of the municipalities on whose territory their headquarters are located, based on the indicators under Art. 282, para. 1, items 1 - 6 .

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The funds received by the municipality under standards shall be distributed among the private schools and kindergartens included in the state financing system on the basis of the indicators under Art. 282, para. 1, items 1 - 6. In these cases, the provision of Art. 282, para. 18 shall apply .

(3) With the funds received from the state budget, private kindergartens and private schools shall finance only the activities of training, upbringing and socialization of children and students, determined by the act under Art. 282, para. 2 .

(4) The revenues from paid activities under Art. 10, para. 3 , as well as revenues generated on other grounds in private kindergartens and private schools, may not be used to finance expenses for activities financed with funds from the state budget.

(5) For the funds spent under para. 1 and under Art. 283, para. 3, private schools and private kindergartens shall keep separate analytical accounts.

(6) Private kindergartens and private schools shall prepare and submit periodic cash reports for expenses in accordance with the procedure determined by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education and Science.

(7) Unspent funds from the subsidy for private kindergartens and private schools within the current year may only be used to finance the same activities in the following year.

(8) Upon termination of the participation of private kindergartens or private schools in the state financing system or upon termination of their activities, the unspent funds from the state budget shall be subject to reimbursement under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for the financing of the institutions.

(9) The municipality and the regional education department shall exercise control over the funds received from the state budget spent by private kindergartens and schools.



Art. 288. (Effective from 01.01.2017) In case of detection of a violation of the regulatory acts committed by the private kindergarten or private school included in the state financing system, as well as in case of low educational results determined according to the methodology under Art. 284, para. 4 , the provision of funds from the state budget shall be suspended until the violations are eliminated under the conditions and according to the procedure specified in the state educational standard for the financing of institutions.



Art. 289. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) State and municipal schools shall apply a delegated budget system, which shall entitle the school principal to:

1. (amended - SG, issue 26 of 2025, effective 01.05.2025) of a secondary budget spending officer;

2. to make compensated changes to the revenue and expenditure plan, including between activities, by notifying the primary budget spending officer thereof;

3. to manage the school's funds;

4. (amended - SG, issue 17 of 2020) to determine the number of staff, individual salaries, teaching workload and the number of groups and classes, as well as the number of students in them in accordance with the approved budget of the school and the norms set out in the subordinate regulations, ensuring the implementation of the curriculum.

(2) The primary budget spending authorities shall delegate rights to school directors to generate their own revenues by providing them with the management of state or municipal property used by them in cases where they do not have these rights by virtue of a regulatory act. As an exception, the right to generate revenues from state or municipal property used by schools may not be delegated when it represents a relatively territorially distinct unit that has independent cost accounting and does not constitute part of the school's inherent activity.

(3) (New - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) The provisions of para. 1 and 2 shall apply accordingly to the centers for special educational support, to the regional centers for support of the process of inclusive education under art. 50, para. 3 , as well as to the specialized service units performing activities under art. 49 .

(4) (Previous para. 3 - SG, issue 98 of 2016, in force from 01.01.2017, supplemented - SG, issue 26 of 2025, in force from 01.05.2025) The provisions of para. 1 and 2 shall apply respectively to kindergartens and personal development support centers, when by decision of the primary budget spending authority they apply a delegated budget system, and in municipalities with regional division it entitles the director to a secondary or tertiary budget spending authority by decision of the municipal council.

(5) (Previous para. 4 - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) The primary budget spending authorities may not finance expenses of institutions outside the pre-school and school education system at the expense of the funds provided to them under Art. 280, para. 3 .



Art. 290. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The Ministry of Education and Science shall publish on its website information on types of standards, supplementary standards and regulations by primary budget spending units for:

1. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) the number of children and students, of classes and groups, as well as of educational institutions as of January 1 of the current year according to the information system of the ministry;
 2. (amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) the number of children and students, of classes and groups, as well as of educational institutions for which the funds for education received from the primary budget spending authorities in accordance with the State Budget Act for the relevant year have been calculated.
- (2) The primary budget spending authorities shall publish on their website information by institutions and by components on the distribution of funds by formulas.
- (3) Schools and kindergartens applying a delegated budget system shall publish on their website their approved budget and the report on its implementation.



Art. 291. (Effective from 01.01.2017) The director shall submit to the public council and to the general meeting of workers and employees quarterly reports on the implementation of the budget of the school, kindergarten or personal development support center by the end of the month following the relevant quarter.



Art. 292. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective from 01.01.2018) In cases where the funds under Art. 280, para. 3, items 1, 2 and 3 or under Art. 282, para. 24, items 1, 2 and 4 have not been provided or reimbursed within the statutory time limits , the Minister of Education and Science may propose that the sanctions provided for in Art. 107 of the Public Finance Act be imposed on the primary budget spending authorities for the respective amount of the non-fulfilment of the budget of the school, kindergarten or personal development support center.

(2) In the event of a reduction in the budgetary relationship of the budget of the primary budget spending authority with the central budget as a result of the application of paragraph 1, the released funds may be provided to the budget of the relevant school, kindergarten or personal development support center that has not received the due transfer from the primary budget spending authority as a transfer through the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science.



Art. 293. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The own revenues of state and municipal kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers are:

1. income from rental of real estate and movable property;
2. income from own agricultural lands and forests;
3. income from intellectual property rights;
4. revenues from the sale of products and services from practical training;
5. income from donations and bequests;
6. other revenues determined by regulatory act.

(2) The primary budget spending authorities may not reduce the amount of funds from the state or municipal budget, determined under the terms and conditions of this law for state and municipal kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers at the expense of their own revenues.



Art. 294. (Effective from 01.01.2017, amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective from 01.01.2018) The additional financing under Art. 282, para. 24, item 3 shall be provided:

1. by decision of the primary budget spending authority, under the procedure and conditions determined by him;

2. for classes with a number of students below the legally defined minimum, determined as a size by a subordinate regulatory act;
3. for payments due from institutions applying a delegated budget system within the current year, and these funds are subject to reimbursement from the budget of the primary budget authorizing officer at the expense of the budget of the institution applying a delegated budget system for the following year, under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the primary budget authorizing officer.



Art. 295. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) In the event that the overdue liabilities of a state or municipal school, as well as of a state or municipal kindergarten or a center for support for personal development, applying a delegated budget system, exceed 20 percent of the approved annual expenses, the director shall be subject to disciplinary liability under the Labor Code . The proposal for the imposition of a disciplinary penalty shall be made by the financing body.

(2) In the cases under paragraph 1, within one month of establishing the excess, when a disciplinary penalty has been imposed, the director shall draw up and implement a program for optimizing costs and overcoming the shortfall, which shall be approved by the financing body.



Art. 296. (Effective from 01.01.2017) Specialized service units are financed from the state budget through the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science.



Art. 297. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The state budget shall provide funds to support teaching in the subjects Bulgarian Language and Literature, History and Civilization, Geography and Economics in their part relating to the history and geography of Bulgaria, organized abroad by:

1. organizations of Bulgarians living outside the Republic of Bulgaria, registered according to the legislation of the respective country for carrying out educational and cultural activities;
2. the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Bulgaria abroad;
3. Bulgarian Orthodox Church communities;
4. The Slavic-Bulgarian Monastery "St. George Zograf" - Mount Athos, Greece.

(2) The funds under paragraph 1 shall be provided from the state budget through the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by an act of the Council of Ministers.

(3) The education under paragraph 1 shall be organized for children of preschool age and for students from grades I to XII according to curricula and teaching aids approved by the Minister of Education and Science.



Art. 298. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The maintenance of children in preschool education in state and municipal kindergartens and schools shall be provided with funds from the state budget and with funds from the municipal budget.

(2) (Amended - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018, repealed - SG, issue 17 of 2022, effective 01.04.2022)

(3) (Repealed - SG, issue 17 of 2022, effective 01.04.2022)

(4) (Repealed - SG, issue 17 of 2022, effective 01.04.2022)



Art. 299. (Effective from 01.01.2017) The additional services under Art. 68 in kindergartens shall be paid for under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by an ordinance of the relevant municipal council.



Article 300. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) In the system of preschool and school education, fees shall be collected in amounts determined by a tariff of the Council of Ministers for:

1. consideration of an application for issuing a permit for the entry of a private kindergarten or private school in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education or for a change in a private kindergarten or private school; the fee includes the costs of assessing the compliance of the stated facts and circumstances and the submitted documents with the requirements for the entry of a private kindergarten or private school or with the requirements for the entry of a change in a private kindergarten or private school;

2. issuance of a certificate for registration of a private kindergarten or private school or for registration of a change to a private kindergarten or private school; the fee includes the costs of preparing the certificate;
 3. consideration of applications for approval of a knowledge booklet, textbook or teaching kit for preschool and school education; the fee includes the costs of checking the submitted documents;
 4. carrying out an assessment of a knowledge booklet, textbook or educational set for their compliance with the state educational standard under Art. 22, para. 2, item 13 ;
 5. recognition of a document for a completed stage of school education, level of education and level of professional qualification issued by schools of foreign countries, and for issuing a certificate; the fee is determined depending on the recognized stage of school education, level of education and professional qualification and includes the costs of checking the documents and conducting an expert assessment to compare the duration of the education, the type of school in which the education was provided, and the subjects with the requirements of the regulatory acts and the curricula and programs operating in the system of preschool and school education;
 6. validation of competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning; the fee is determined depending on the type of validation and includes the costs of checking the submitted documents and conducting the test;
 7. consideration of applications and evaluation of training programs for improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists; the fee includes the costs of checking the submitted documents and evaluating the programs;
 8. conducting literacy courses, courses for acquiring competencies for a completed lower secondary school stage or for completed classes of lower secondary school stage and courses for the recognition of professional qualifications; the fee includes the costs of training and conducting the test;
 9. education of third-country nationals above the compulsory school age; the fee includes the costs of education;
 10. (new - SG, issue 23 of 2024) taking an examination under Art. 135a, para. 1 .
- (2) (Amended - SG, No. 98/2016, effective 01.01.2017, amended - SG, No. 23/2024) The revenues from the fees under para. 1, items 1 - 4 and item 7 shall be included in the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science, and the fees under para. 1, items 6, 8, 9 and 10 - in the budget of the relevant school.
- (3) (New - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) The revenues from the fees under para. 1, item 5 shall be included in the budget revenue of the relevant regional education department or the relevant school.
- (4) (Previous para. 3 - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) The fees under para. 1, item 5 shall not be collected when the persons requesting recognition are of compulsory school age.
- (5) (Previous para. 4 - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) The fees under para. 1, items 6 and 8 shall not be collected when the activities are financed with funds from national and international programs and projects.



- Art. 301.** (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) Activities outside those financed by the state under Art. 10, para. 3 , which are carried out for a fee by private kindergartens or schools, shall be determined by the regulations of the respective private kindergarten or private school.
- (2) The terms and conditions for payment of the activities under paragraph 1 and the amount of payment shall be determined by a contract between the private kindergarten or private school and the parent of the child or student.
- (3) Private kindergartens and schools included in the state funding system may collect funds from parents to compensate for expenses incurred by them for providing and maintaining the material and technical base in which the activities for the implementation of the compulsory preschool and school education of children and students are carried out, the maximum amount per child or student being determined according to the methodology approved by the state educational standard for the financing of institutions.
- (4) The participation of the child or student in activities under paragraph 1 may not be a mandatory condition for his/her enrollment in a private kindergarten or school and his/her participation in activities of compulsory pre-school and school education.

Section II.

Property (Effective from 01.01.2017)



- Art. 302.** (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) State and municipal real estate provided for the management of state and municipal schools, kindergartens and personal development support centers shall be public state or public municipal property, respectively.

(2) From the date of entry into force of the act declaring a state school a municipal school, the properties - public state property, provided to the school before its declaration as municipal, shall pass into the ownership of the municipality on the territory of which the properties are located, and shall become public municipal property, and the items - state property shall become the property of the municipality financing the school.

(3) The properties and belongings under paragraph 2 shall be provided for management by the school that managed them until its declaration as municipal, and shall be used only for the purposes of the educational process, without changing their intended purpose.

(4) When the seat of the school managing the properties under paragraph 2 is outside the territory of the municipality acquiring them, after the entry into force of the act declaring the school municipal, the acquiring municipality shall provide the properties for management to schools financed by it.

(5) From the date of entry into force of the act declaring a municipal school as state-owned, the properties and belongings provided to the school before its declaration as state-owned shall become the property of the state, shall be managed by the school and shall be used only for the purposes of the educational process, without changing their intended purpose.



Art. 303. (Effective from 01.01.2017) Real estate and movable property acquired for a fee by state and municipal schools, kindergartens and personal development support centers shall have the status of private state or private municipal property, respectively.



Art. 304. (1) (In force from 01.01.2017, previous text of Art. 304 - SG, issue 82 of 2020) Real estate and movable property acquired free of charge by state and municipal schools, kindergartens and personal development support centers, as well as the property and movable property, ownership of which has been restored to them, shall be the property of the school, kindergarten or center.

(2) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) Upon closure of a state or municipal school, kindergarten or personal development support center, the properties and belongings under para. 1 shall pass into the ownership of the school, kindergarten or personal development support center, designated as the legal successor to the property under Art. 322, para. 1, item 4 .



Art. 305. (Effective from 01.01.2017) (1) The properties or parts thereof and the belongings released as a result of the closure or transformation of state and municipal schools, kindergartens and personal development support centers shall be used for educational, health, social or humanitarian activities in accordance with the State Property Act , the Municipal Property Act and the by-laws for their implementation.

(2) The properties or parts thereof and the belongings released as a result of the closure or transformation of state and municipal schools, kindergartens and personal development support centers, for which there is no public need for their use for the activities under paragraph 1, may also be used for other activities subject to the simultaneous fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. within a period of two years, no public need has been identified for their use for educational, health, social or humanitarian activities;
2. there is a positive opinion of the Minister of Education and Science, prepared on the basis of an assessment of the educational needs in the municipality;
3. the settlement has a population of less than 5 thousand people.

Chapter Seventeen. AUTHORITIES



Art. 306. (1) The trustees are independent voluntary associations for supporting the activities of the educational institution.

(2) Only one board of trustees may be established for each school, kindergarten or personal development support center.

(3) A board of trustees may also be established for a group of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers in the settlement for which no board of trustees has been established under paragraph 2.

(4) The trusteeships shall be established as non-profit legal entities for the purpose of carrying out public benefit activities and shall organize their activities under the terms and conditions of the Non-profit Legal Entities Act and in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the statutes or their founding act.



Art. 307. (1) The board of trustees shall be established on the initiative of the director of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center or of parents, teachers or public figures.
(2) The persons under paragraph 1 shall send an invitation to participate in a constituent assembly through the mass media and/or in person to prominent public figures, donors, representatives of legal entities.



Art. 308. (1) The bodies of the board of trustees shall be the general meeting and the council of trustees.
(2) The members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the general meeting for a term of up to 4 years.
(3) The Board of Trustees shall elect a chairman from among its members.
(4) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) The director and deputy directors of the school, kindergarten or personal development support center may not be members of the governing bodies of the board of trustees while they hold the relevant position, but may participate in their meetings in an advisory capacity.



Art. 309. (1) (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) The main objective of the boards of trustees is to assist, support and assist in the development of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center.
(2) (Previous text of Art. 309 - SG, issue 82 of 2020) To achieve their goals, the boards of trustees:
1. assist in providing additional financial and material resources for the kindergarten, school or personal development support center and control their appropriate spending;
2. assist in the construction and maintenance of the material and technical base of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center;
3. assist in organizing student meals, providing transportation and solving other social and everyday problems of children, students, teachers from the school, kindergarten or personal development support center;
4. assist in the implementation of programs on the problems of children and students, for hobbies, organized recreation, tourism and sports with children and students;
5. organize and support training for parents on issues of the upbringing and development of their children;
6. organize the public to support the kindergarten, school or personal development support center;
7. signal the competent authorities in case of violations committed in the system of preschool and school education.



Art. 309a. (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) The trusteeships may spend the income from their property, including the income from agricultural lands, only for activities aimed at achieving their main goal under Art. 309, para. 1 , and for the benefit of the kindergarten, school or personal development support center.



Art. 309b. (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) (1) The Minister of Education and Science and officials authorized by him, as well as the regional departments of education, shall exercise control over the boards of trustees for compliance with the provisions of this Act and the subordinate normative acts for its implementation.
(2) The authorities under paragraph 1 shall carry out inspections of the activities of the boards of trustees and shall have the right:
1. free access to all activities and all documents of the board of trustees;
2. to require, within the time limits set by them, reports, certified copies of documents and other information in connection with the performance of the inspections, including on an electronic medium.
(3) The management bodies and all employees of the board of trustees are obliged to provide assistance to the bodies under paragraph 1 in exercising their powers and to provide appropriate premises and technical means for carrying out inspections.
(4) In case of established violations, the authorities under paragraph 1 shall issue mandatory instructions for their elimination.



Art. 309c. (New - SG, issue 82 of 2020) (1) The property remaining after the satisfaction of the creditors upon liquidation of the board of trustees shall be provided under the conditions of Art. 44, para. 1 of the Non-profit Legal Entities Act to the kindergarten, the school or the personal development support center, and in the cases under Art. 306, para. 3 - to the kindergarten, the school or the personal development support center, respectively, designated by the Minister of Education and Science, after coordination with the head of the relevant regional education department.

(2) In the cases under para. 1, if the kindergarten, the school or the personal development support center are transformed, the property of the board of trustees shall be provided to the kindergarten, the school, respectively the personal development support center - legal successor, and in cases of division - to the legal successor designated by the Minister of Education and Science, after coordination with the head of the relevant regional education department.

(3) In the cases under para. 1, if the kindergarten, school or personal development support center are closed, the property of the board of trustees shall be provided to the kindergarten, school or personal development support center - legal successor of the property under Art. 322, para. 1, item 4 , or if there is none - to a kindergarten, school or personal development support center, respectively, designated by the Minister of Education and Science, after coordination with the head of the relevant regional education department.

Chapter Eighteen.

OPENING, REFORMATION, CHANGE AND CLOSURE OF INSTITUTIONS IN THE SYSTEM OF PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

Section I.

Opening, transformation, change and closure of state and municipal institutions



Art. 310. (1) The Minister of Education and Science shall, by order, open, transform, change and close:

1. public schools;
2. municipal schools;
3. specialized service units;
4. state and municipal centers for special educational support.

(2) Schools of arts and schools of culture shall be opened, transformed, changed and closed under the terms and conditions of the Law on the Protection and Development of Culture .

(3) The order for opening, transformation, change or closure of the state kindergartens under Art. 35, para. 2, item 2 and of the Bulgarian state schools abroad shall be issued in accordance with the international agreements and shall be coordinated with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(4) State kindergartens under Art. 35, para. 2, item 1 shall be opened, transformed, changed and closed by order of the Minister of Defence after coordination with the Minister of Education and Science.

(5) Municipal kindergartens and personal development support centers, with the exception of municipal centers for special educational support, shall be opened, transformed, changed or closed by order of the mayor of the municipality following a decision of the municipal council.



Art. 311. (1) State and municipal institutions in the system of preschool and school education shall be transformed by merger, consolidation, separation or division. Non-specialized schools shall also be transformed by changing the type under Art. 38, para. 1 and 2 .

(2) Changes may be made in state and municipal kindergartens and schools related to:

1. the name;
2. the official address;
3. the address of the buildings in which the training is conducted.

(3) In vocational high schools and sports schools, a change of the financing body may also be made.

(4) In the specialized service units, in addition to the changes under para. 2, items 1 and 2, changes related to the subject of activity under art. 50 may also be made .

(5) In the personal development support centers, in addition to the changes under para. 2, changes related to the subject of activity under Art. 49 may also be made in accordance with Art. 49, para. 6 .



Art. 312. (1) The proceedings for issuing the order for opening, transformation, change and closure of state and municipal schools, state and municipal centers for special educational support and specialized service units shall commence upon a written proposal of the financing authority.

(2) For state schools, with the exception of Bulgarian schools abroad, as well as for state centers for special educational support, for which the Minister of Education and Science is the funding authority, the proceedings for issuing the order for opening, transformation, change and closure shall commence on his initiative or upon a written proposal of the head of the regional education department.

(3) For Bulgarian schools abroad, the proceedings for issuing the order for opening, transformation, change and closure shall commence on the initiative of the Minister of Education and Science under the terms of international treaties to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party.

(4) For schools attached to places of deprivation of liberty, the proceedings for issuing the order for opening, transformation, change and closure shall commence on the initiative of the Minister of Justice.

(5) The proceedings for issuing an order to change the name of a public school may also be initiated upon a written motivated proposal of the director, made on the basis of a decision of the pedagogical council and coordinated with the financing authority, when this is not the Minister of Education and Science.

(6) The mayor's proposal to initiate the proceedings under paragraph 1 for municipal schools, as well as for municipal centers for special educational support, shall be submitted after a decision of the municipal council and after an inspection and opinion of the regional education department.



Art. 313. (1) The proceedings for issuing the order for opening, transformation, change and closure of:

1. the state kindergartens under Art. 35, Para. 2, Item 1 shall be opened on the initiative of the Minister of Defence;

2. the state kindergartens under Art. 35, Para. 2, Item 2 shall be opened on the initiative of the Minister of Education and Science;

3. municipal kindergartens and municipal centers for support for personal development shall begin upon a proposal by the mayor of the municipality following a decision of the municipal council.

(2) The proceedings for issuing an order to change the name of a state kindergarten may also be initiated upon a written motivated proposal of the director, made on the basis of a decision of the pedagogical council and coordinated with the financing authority, when this is not the Minister of Education and Science.



Article 314. (1) The proposal for the opening and transformation of a state or municipal school, a state or municipal center for special educational support and a specialized service unit shall contain:

1. reasons for the need for opening or transformation;

2. name and official address;

3. address of the buildings in which the training is conducted, respectively the activity is carried out;

4. type of school;

5. stage and degree of education, organization of the school day and profiles or professions, organization of preschool education, if implemented - for the school;

6. professions, in case vocational training is provided in accordance with Art. 49, para. 2, item 4 , organization of the school day, organization of preschool education, in case it is implemented - for the state and municipal center for special educational support;

7. subject of activity - for the specialized service unit;

8. the school year from which the opening or transformation is proposed - for the school, and for the state and municipal center for special educational support;

9. information on the number of children and students who will be educated and trained in the school or in the state and municipal center for special educational support, and the possibilities for their redirection - in case of transformation;

10. information on provided transportation to the school and to the state and municipal center for special educational support to which the students have been redirected - in case of transformation;

11. information on an accessible architectural environment for children and students with special educational needs and the material, technical, personnel and financial support of the activities of the school and the state and municipal center for special educational support;

12. proposal for storage of mandatory documentation - upon transformation.

(2) The proposal for changes to the state and municipal schools, the state and municipal center for special educational support and the specialized service units shall contain:

1. a detailed description of the requested change;

2. reasons for the need for the change;

3. indication of the school year from which the change is proposed for schools and for the state and municipal center for special educational support.

(3) The proposal for the closure of state and municipal schools, state and municipal centers for special educational support and specialized service units contains:

1. reasons for the need for closure;

2. name and address;

3. type of school;

4. stage and degree of education and organization of the school day and profiles or professions, organization of preschool education, if implemented - for the school;
 5. professions, in case vocational training is provided in accordance with Art. 49, para. 2, item 4 , organization of the school day, organization of preschool education, in case it is implemented - for the state and municipal center for special educational support;
 6. information on the number of children and students and the possibilities for their redirection;
 7. information about the ownership and a proposal for the distribution, transfer and use of the building stock and the material and technical base;
 8. proposal for acceptance and storage of mandatory documentation;
 9. information about provided transportation to the school to which the students are directed.
- (4) The proposal for opening, transformation, change and closure of a municipal kindergarten and of personal development support centers, with the exception of municipal centers for special educational support, shall contain the relevant details under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 in accordance with their activities.
- (5) The documents specified in the state educational standard for institutions in pre-school and school education shall be attached to the proposals under paragraphs 1 - 4.



- Art. 315.** (1) Proposals for the opening, transformation and closure of state and municipal schools, as well as state and municipal centers for special educational support, student dormitories and astronomical observatories shall be submitted by May 31 and shall be considered for the upcoming school year.
- (2) Proposals for the opening, transformation, change and closure of specialized service units shall be made and considered year-round.
- (3) Proposals for the transformation and closure of state and municipal schools, as well as state and municipal centers for special educational support due to a decrease in the number of children and students, shall be made year-round and considered for the upcoming school year, and in the event of the suspension of the educational process due to a lack of children and students, they shall be made and considered year-round.
- (4) Proposals for changes shall be made and considered year-round.



- Art. 316.** (1) The documents for opening, transformation, change and closure under Art. 314 shall be reviewed and assessed for compliance with the requirements of this Act and the regulatory acts for its implementation.
- (2) Proposals shall not be evaluated which:
1. do not contain all the necessary documents;
 2. are submitted after the deadline under Art. 315, para. 1 .
- (3) Exceptionally, when the issuance of a document is within the powers of another body and under conditions specified in the state educational standard for the institutions under Art. 22, para. 2, item 11 , proposals that do not contain this document may be considered and evaluated if another document is submitted, certifying the existence of proceedings initiated before this body.



- Art. 317.** (1) Additional documents may be required from the applicant to clarify all facts and circumstances.
- (2) If necessary, authorized officials may carry out on-site inspections, as well as request from the importer the originals of the imported documents for verification.



- Art. 318.** (1) When the submitted documents for opening, transformation, change and closure under Art. 314 do not comply with the requirements of this Act and the regulatory acts for its implementation, the submitter shall be notified of the discrepancies and of the term for their elimination, which may not be shorter than 10 working days.
- (2) In the cases under Art. 316, para. 3 , where, upon evaluation of the submitted documents, no inconsistencies with the regulatory requirements have been found or they have been eliminated in accordance with the procedure set out in para. 1, the submitter shall be notified to submit the document, the issuance of which is within the powers of another authority.



- Art. 319.** (1) The opening, transformation, change and closure authority shall take a decision within one month, as follows:
1. issues an order for opening, changing, transforming or closing;
 2. refuses to open, change, convert or close.

(2) The term under para. 1 shall begin to run from the date of removal of the deficiencies under Art. 318, para. 1 or from the expiration of the term for their removal.



Art. 320. (1) An order for opening, changing, transforming or closing shall be issued when, during the examination and assessment, no non-compliances with the regulatory requirements have been established or the non-compliances established have been eliminated within a time limit.

(2) The authority shall refuse to open, change or transform when:

1. the identified non-conformities have not been eliminated or have not been eliminated within the specified period;
2. in the cases under Art. 318, para. 2, the applicant has not submitted the relevant documents by July 1 before the beginning of the school year for which the opening, change or transformation is requested.
- (3) The acts under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be promulgated in the " [State Gazette](#) " and shall enter into force on the day of their promulgation, unless otherwise provided therein.



Art. 321. (1) The order for opening or transformation of a state and municipal kindergarten or school and of a personal development support center shall contain:

1. the name, registered office and official address of the kindergarten, school or center;
2. the address of the building in which the training will be held;
3. the organization of preschool education for the kindergarten, the type of school or the subject of activity of the center;
4. the conditions and procedure for redirecting children and students - upon transformation;
5. the conditions and procedure for storing the mandatory documentation and for distributing the property - upon transformation;
6. the funding body.

(2) The order for opening or transformation of a specialized service unit, in addition to the details under paragraph 1, items 1 and 6, shall also contain the subject of activity and the total number of personnel.



Art. 322. (1) The order for the closure of a state and municipal kindergarten or school, of a personal development support center and of a specialized service unit shall contain:

1. the name, registered office, official address;
2. the conditions and procedure for redirecting children and students;
3. the conditions and procedure for storing the mandatory documentation;
4. (suppl. - SG, issue 82 of 2020) the conditions and procedure for distributing the property, as well as determining a kindergarten, school, respectively a center for support for personal development - legal successor to the property - property of the closed kindergarten, school or center for support for personal development.

(2) The order for closure of a specialized service unit shall contain the data under para. 1, items 1, 3 and 4.



Art. 323. The specific conditions and procedure for opening, transforming, changing and closing state and municipal kindergartens or schools, personal development support centers and specialized service units shall be determined by the state educational standard for institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

Section II.

Opening, transformation, change and closure of theological schools



Art. 324. (1) Theological schools shall be opened, transformed and changed at the request of a central body of the recognized religious institution in the country.

(2) Theological schools shall be transformed through merger, consolidation, separation or division.

(3) In theological schools, in addition to the changes under Art. 311, para. 2, changes may also be made related to:

1. the name of the relevant religious institution;
2. the professions for which training is organized;
3. the school principal.

(4) Theological schools shall be closed:

1. at the request of the central body of the relevant religious institution;
2. when the activity of the religious institution is terminated;
3. when it is established that the requirements of this law and the regulatory acts for its implementation are not complied with;
4. when imposing a restrictive measure under Art. 8, para. 1, item 4 of the Religions Act .



Art. 325. (1) Theological schools shall be opened, transformed, changed and closed by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon a proposal of the Minister of Education and Science, with the exception of the cases under Art. 324, para. 3, item 3 and para. 4, item 4 .

(2) The proceedings for issuing the order for opening, transformation and change shall commence upon a written request of the relevant central body of a recognized religious institution in the country.

(3) The proceedings for issuing the order for the closure of the religious schools shall commence:

1. at the request of the relevant central body of a recognized religious institution in the country;
2. upon proposal of the regional education department after conducting an inspection;
3. upon the proposal of the body that recognized the religious institution.



Article 326. (1) The request for the opening and transformation of religious schools shall contain:

1. data on the relevant central body of the recognized religious institution in the country;
2. name of the theological school;
3. headquarters, official address of the religious school and address of the building(s) where the training will be conducted, and the identifier of the real estate in accordance with Art. 26 of the Cadastre and Property Register Act must be specified ; when using a non-independent part of the building, the premises must be specified;
4. data about the school principal;
5. profiles or professions and organization of the school day;
6. the academic year from which the opening or transformation is proposed;
7. number of classes and periods for each class in which training will be organized in the first year after the opening or transformation;
8. information on the number of students who will be educated at the school, and information on the possibilities for their redirection - in the event of transformation;
9. proposal for storage of mandatory documentation - upon transformation.

(2) The request for amendment shall contain:

1. a detailed description of the requested change;
2. reasons for the need for the change;
3. indication of the academic year from which the change is proposed.

(3) The request for closure shall contain:

1. reasons for the need for closure;
2. indication of the academic year from which closure is proposed;
3. information for student guidance and for the storage of school records.

(4) The documents specified in the state educational standard for the institutions under Art. 22, para. 2, item 11 shall be attached to the requests for opening, change, transformation and closure .



Art. 327. (1) When examining and evaluating the documents for opening, transformation, change and closure of religious schools, Art. 315 - 320 shall apply respectively .

(2) The specific conditions and procedure for opening, transforming, changing and closing religious schools are determined by the state educational standard for institutions in the system of preschool and school education.



Art. 328. (1) The decision to open or transform a religious school, in addition to the requisites under Art. 321, para. 1, shall also contain:

1. data on the recognized religious institution in the country and on its central body;
2. the profiles or professions for which the training is organized;
3. the right of the school to issue official documents for completed grades, degrees of education and professional qualifications.

(2) The decision to close a religious school shall contain the requisites under Art. 322, para. 1, items 1 - 3 .

(3) In the cases under Art. 324, para. 4, item 4, the religious school shall be closed from the entry into force of the act imposing the restrictive measure.



Art. 329. (1) In the event of a change in the director of a religious school, the relevant central body of a recognized religious institution shall notify the Minister of Education and Science prior to concluding a contract with the director.

(2) The documents specified in the state educational standard for the institutions under Art. 22, Para. 2, Item 11 shall be attached to the notification under Para. 1 .

(3) If necessary, the Minister of Education and Science may request additional information from the relevant central body of a recognized religious institution.

(4) The employment contract with the director may be concluded after permission from the Minister of Education and Science.

(5) The Minister of Education and Science shall issue or refuse to issue the permit under paragraph 4 within 14 days of receipt of the documents under paragraph 2 or the additional information under paragraph 3.

(6) Based on the permission under paragraph 5, the change of the director shall be entered in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

Section III.

Establishment, registration and changes of private kindergartens and private schools



Art. 330. (1) Private kindergartens and schools shall be established, transformed, changed and terminated in compliance with the requirements of this Act and under the terms and conditions of the Commerce Act , the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act or the Cooperatives Act or under the terms and conditions of the legislation of a Member State.

(2) Private kindergartens and schools may not be established as commercial companies - public enterprises within the meaning of Article 61 of the Commerce Act .

(3) The legal entities under paragraph 1 may not have any other subject of activity than the activity of a kindergarten or school and may carry out activities of only one kindergarten or school.



Art. 331. (1) The established private kindergartens and private schools may carry out their activities only after entry in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education and issuance of a certificate of entry by the Minister of Education and Science or by an official authorized by him.

(2) Entry in the register of institutions shall be made upon application of the private kindergarten or private school, which shall contain:

1. data about the legal entity;
2. the single identification code or the BULSTAT code;
3. data about the director of the kindergarten or school;
4. the academic year from which entry in the register of institutions is requested;
5. type of school under Art. 38, para. 1 and 2 or Art. 39, para. 2, items 1 - 3 ;
6. forms of training and organization of the school day;
7. profiles or professions;
8. headquarters and official address of the kindergarten or school and address of the building/buildings where the educational process will be conducted, and the identifier of the real estate in accordance with Art. 26 of the Cadastre and Property Register Act must be specified ; when using a non-independent part of the building, the premises must be specified;
9. name of the kindergarten or school.

(3) The documents specified in the state educational standard for institutions in pre-school and school education shall be attached to the application under paragraph 2.

(4) Private kindergartens and schools under Art. 40, para. 4 shall submit with their application written evidence certifying their right to conduct training in accordance with the requirements of the foreign educational system.

(5) A declaration cannot prove an educational qualification level, professional qualification, teaching experience, as well as other facts and circumstances for the establishment of which a different procedure is provided for by law.



Art. 332. (1) Applications for entry in the register of institutions shall be submitted year-round, and those submitted by January 31 of the calendar year shall be considered for the upcoming academic year, unless their consideration for a later academic year has been requested.

(2) When examining and evaluating the applications and the documents attached thereto, Articles 316 - 318 shall apply accordingly .



Art. 333. (1) The Minister of Education and Science shall, within one month, issue an order authorizing or refusing to authorize entry in the register of institutions.

(2) The term under para. 1 shall begin to run from the date of removal of the deficiencies under Art. 318, para. 1 or from the expiration of the term for their removal.

(3) The order under paragraph 1 shall be communicated under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of Article 61 of the Administrative Procedure Code .

(4) The principle of tacit consent shall not apply when issuing a registration permit and a registration certificate.



Art. 334. (1) The Minister of Education and Science shall authorize entry in the register of institutions when, upon examination and evaluation of the submitted documents, no inconsistencies with the regulatory requirements have been found or the inconsistencies found have been eliminated within the time limit.

(2) The permit under paragraph 1 shall contain:

1. the name, registered office and official address of the kindergarten or school; the uniform identification code or the BULSTAT code;

2. the address of the building in which the educational process will be conducted, as well as the identifier of the real estate according to Art. 26 of the Law on the Cadastre and the Property Register ; when using part of a building, the premises are specified;

3. the type of school under Art. 38 or Art. 39, para. 2, items 1 - 3 ;

4. the profiles or professions for which the training is organized;

5. the right of the school to issue official documents for completed grades, degrees of education and professional qualifications.

(3) Based on the permit under paragraph 1, the private kindergarten or private school shall be entered in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

(4) The Minister of Education and Science or an official authorized by him shall issue a certificate for the entry under paragraph 1 within 7 days of its completion.

(5) The validity of the registration and the certificate is unlimited.



Art. 335. The Minister of Education and Science shall refuse entry in the register of institutions when:

1. the identified non-conformities have not been eliminated or have not been eliminated within the specified period;

2. in the cases under Art. 318, para. 2, the applicant has not submitted the relevant documents by July 1 before the beginning of the school year for which the opening, change or transformation is requested.



Art. 336. (1) Changes may be made in a private kindergarten or private school related to:

1. the name (company), the registered office, the official address;

2. the director of the kindergarten or school;

3. the premises or buildings where the educational process takes place;

4. the profiles or professions for which the training is organized;

5. the author's curricula for preschool education, respectively the author's curricula for vocational training;

6. the type of school under Art. 38, para. 1 and 2 or under Art. 39, para. 2, items 1 - 3 .

(2) The changes under paragraph 1 shall be subject to entry in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education upon application by the private kindergarten or private school.

(3) The application for registration of a change of the private kindergarten or private school shall contain:

1. a detailed description of the requested change;

2. reasons for the need for the change;

3. indication of the academic year from which a change is proposed under para. 1, items 4 - 6.

(4) The documents specified in the state educational standard for the institutions shall be attached to the application under paragraph 3.

(5) Applications under para. 3 shall be submitted and considered year-round, with the exception of applications for change under para. 1, items 4 - 6, which shall be submitted and considered within the terms under art. 332, para. 1 .



Art. 337. (1) When considering and assessing the applications for changes under Art. 336, para. 1, items 1, 3 - 6 and the documents attached thereto, Art. 316 - 318 , 333 , Art. 334, para. 1 and Art. 335 shall apply respectively .

(2) The permission to enter a change under Art. 336, para. 1, items 4 - 6 shall contain the academic year from which the change is permitted.



Art. 338. (1) On the basis of the registration permit, the relevant change in the private kindergarten or private school shall be entered in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

(2) The Minister of Education and Science or an official authorized by him shall issue a certificate for registration of the change within 7 days of its implementation.

(3) In cases of change of premises or buildings where the educational process is conducted, the relocation of children and students may be carried out after entry of the change in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education and issuance of the certificate under para. 2.



Art. 339. (1) Applications for a change of director shall be submitted before concluding a contract with the director.

(2) The documents specified in the state educational standard for the institutions shall be attached to the application under paragraph 1.

(3) If necessary, the Minister of Education and Science may request additional information from the private kindergarten or private school.

(4) The contract with the director under para. 1 may be concluded after permission from the Minister of Education and Science under para. 5.

(5) The Minister of Education and Science shall issue or refuse to issue a permit for concluding the contract with the director under para. 1 within 14 days of receipt of the documents under para. 2 or the additional information under para. 3.

(6) Based on the permission under paragraph 5, the change of the director shall be entered in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education.



Art. 340. (1) The private kindergarten and the private school shall be deleted from the register of institutions when it is established that the requirements of this law and the regulatory acts for its implementation are not systematically complied with.

(2) The proceedings for deletion from the register of institutions shall commence on the initiative of the Minister of Education and Science or upon proposal of the regional education department in case of established violations in the activities of the private kindergarten or private school.

(3) The private kindergarten or private school shall be notified in writing of the commencement of the proceedings.

(4) Within 10 days of the notification under paragraph 3, the private kindergarten or private school shall have the right to submit written objections and explanations.

(5) Within two months of the commencement of the proceedings, the Minister of Education and Science shall issue an order, after clarifying the facts and circumstances relevant to the case and discussing the explanations and objections of the private kindergarten or private school.

(6) The order for deletion under paragraph 5 shall specify the conditions and procedure for redirecting students and preserving the mandatory documentation.

(7) Based on the order for deletion under paragraph 5, the private kindergarten or private school shall be deleted from the register of institutions, and all certificates of registration shall be invalidated.



Art. 341. When a private kindergarten or private school is deleted from the register under the terms and conditions of Art. 340 , they may submit an application for new registration no earlier than one year after the invalidation of the registration certificate.



Art. 342. (1) A private kindergarten or private school shall be deregistered from the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education on the basis of an order of the Minister of Education and Science:

1. when the kindergarten or school does not start its activities within two years at the latest from the issuance of the certificate of entry in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education;
2. when the kindergarten or school ceases its activities for more than two school years;
3. upon termination of the legal entity.

(2) The order for deregistration shall determine the conditions and procedure for redirecting students and preserving the mandatory documentation.



Art. 343. (1) When a private kindergarten or private school is deregistered from the register of institutions under the terms and conditions of Art. 342, it may submit an application for the issuance of a new permit without any time limit.

(2) In the cases under para. 1, applications shall be considered under relaxed conditions, specified in the state educational standard for institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

(3) Under the conditions under paragraph 2, the applications of newly established or receiving legal entities in cases of transformation of a private kindergarten or private school through merger, consolidation, division or separation shall also be considered.



Art. 344. (1) The specific conditions and procedure for entry, changes, deletion and deregistration from the register of private kindergartens and private schools institutions shall be determined by the state educational standard for institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

(2) For the consideration of applications and evaluation of documents under Art. 331 and 336 and for the issuance of certificates under Art. 334, para. 4 and Art. 338, para. 2, the Ministry of Education and Science shall collect fees in the amount specified in the tariff under Art. 300, para. 1.

Section IV.

Register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education



Art. 345. (1) The Ministry of Education and Science shall establish and maintain a public register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education, in which shall be entered:

1. state kindergartens, state and municipal schools - on the basis of the order for their opening, transformation, changes and closure;
2. theological schools - based on the decision of the Council of Ministers for their opening, transformation and closure;
3. private kindergartens and schools - on the basis of the permission for registration, changes, deletion and deregistration issued by the Minister of Education and Science;
4. the specialized service units - based on the order for their opening, transformation, changes and closure;
5. state and municipal centers for special educational support - based on the order for their opening, transformation, changes and closure.

(2) The circumstances subject to entry in the register under paragraph 1, as well as the procedure for entry, shall be determined by an ordinance of the Minister of Education and Science.



Art. 346. (1) In each municipality, a register of municipal kindergartens and personal development support centers shall be established and maintained, in which municipal kindergartens and personal development support centers shall be entered ex officio, with the exception of municipal centers for special educational support - on the basis of the order for their opening, transformation, change and closure.

(2) The circumstances that are subject to entry in the register under paragraph 1, as well as the procedure for entry, shall be determined by an ordinance of the relevant municipal council.

Chapter Nineteen.

ADMINISTRATIVE PENAL PROVISIONS



Art. 347. (1) Parents who fail to enroll their children, subject to compulsory pre-school or school education, in a kindergarten or school shall be punished with a fine in the amount of 50 to 150 BGN.
(2) Parents who fail to ensure the attendance of their children, subject to compulsory pre-school education, enrolled in a full-day, half-day or part-time form of organization in a kindergarten or school, or subject to compulsory school education, enrolled in a day, evening, distance or combined form of education in a school, shall be punished with a fine in the amount of 50 to 150 BGN.
(3) Parents who do not ensure the attendance of their children in additional education Art. 124, para. 2 shall be punished with a fine in the amount of 50 to 150 BGN.
(4) In case of repeated commission of the violation under paras 1, 2 and 3, the fine shall be in the amount of BGN 100 to 500.
(5) The acts establishing the violations under paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be drawn up by officials appointed by the mayor of the municipality.
(6) The penal decrees shall be issued by the mayor of the municipality or by an official authorized by him.
(7) The funds collected from fines shall be included in the budget revenue of the respective municipality and shall be spent only on activities related to supporting equal access, as well as for the development of kindergartens, schools and personal development support centers.



Article 348. (1) A fine or a property penalty of BGN 5,000 to 10,000 shall be imposed on natural or legal persons who:
1. organize and conduct without registration, under the terms and conditions of this law, activities for the upbringing, education and training of children from the age of three until their entry into grade 1 for the purpose of issuing a document for completed preschool preparation;
2. organize and conduct without registration, under the terms and conditions of this law, activities for training or validation of competences of individuals for the purpose of issuing a document for a completed class, stage or level of education.
(2) In case of repeated violations under paragraph 1, a fine or property sanction of double the amount shall be imposed.



Art. 349. (1) An author or publisher of an educational booklet, textbook or educational set who distributes the work in deviation from the approved project, without the conditions under Art. 161, para. 4, being met, shall be punished with a fine, respectively with a property sanction in the amount of BGN 1,000 to 5,000.
(2) In case of repeated commission of the violations under para. 1, a fine or a property sanction of double the amount shall be imposed.



Art. 350. (1) An author or publisher who distributes a work misleadingly claiming that it has been approved by the Minister of Education and Science as an educational booklet, textbook or teaching kit shall be punished by a fine, respectively by a property sanction in the amount of BGN 5,000 to 10,000.
(2) In case of repeated commission of the violation under paragraph 1, a fine or a property sanction of double the amount shall be imposed.



Art. 351. (1) Whoever fails to comply with a mandatory provision under Art. 264, para. 3 within the time limit shall be punished with a fine, respectively with a property sanction in the amount of BGN 1,000 to 5,000.
(2) In case of repeated commission of the violation under paragraph 1, a fine or a property sanction of double the amount shall be imposed.



Art. 352. (1) The acts establishing the violations under Art. 348, 349, 350 and 351 shall be drawn up by officials designated by the Minister of Education and Science, and the penal decrees shall be issued by the Minister of Education and Science or by officials authorized by him.
(2) The funds collected from fines and property sanctions for the violations under paragraph 1 shall be paid into the budget revenue of the Ministry of Education and Science.



Article 353. The acts establishing violations and the penal decrees under this chapter shall be drawn up, issued and appealed in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Administrative Violations and Penalties Act .

Additional provisions

§ 1. For the purposes of this law:

1. " Author " is a natural person or natural persons who, as a result of creative activity, have created:
 - a) educational booklet and/or textbook and/or educational set used in the preschool and school education system;
 - b) a draft of a knowledge booklet and/or a draft of a textbook and/or a draft of a teaching kit, with which to participate in an evaluation and approval procedure opened by the Ministry of Education and Science.
2. " Hospital teacher " is a teacher who is appointed solely for the instruction of children and students during their stay for treatment in a hospital.
3. "Bulgarians living outside the Republic of Bulgaria " are Bulgarians within the meaning of Art. 2 of the Law on Bulgarians Living Outside the Republic of Bulgaria .
4. " Age for a given grade " is the age corresponding to that grade of students who entered grade 1 in the school year beginning in the year of their 7th birthday, have not repeated any of the previous grades, have not missed a school year and have not completed more than one grade in one school year.
5. " Activities that are the subject of state policy " are the activities carried out by the institutions in the system of preschool and school education, to which children and students have equal access and are directly related to their upbringing, education and training, the acquisition of primary and secondary education and/or professional qualification or to the support of their personal development. These activities are not of an economic nature, are determined by the state educational standard for the financing of the institutions and are financed in whole or in part from the state budget in accordance with this law and under conditions, in accordance with the procedure and in amounts determined by the Council of Ministers.
6. " Child or student at risk " is a child or student:
 - a) without parental care or whose parents are deceased, unknown, deprived of parental rights or whose parental rights are limited;
 - b) a victim of abuse, violence, exploitation or any other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment within or outside his family;
 - c) in danger of harm to his physical, mental, moral, intellectual and social development.
7. " A child or student with outstanding talents " is a child or student with lasting abilities and achievements in the field of science, art or sports, exceeding the achievements of his peers.
8. " Member State " means a Member State of the European Union, or a State party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, or the Swiss Confederation.
9. " Electronic publication " is information presented in digital form, using a generally accepted standard for its visualization on a computer, mobile device, television with network connectivity or other similar device, which includes educational content, tests, reference materials, links to external resources, dictionaries, educational games, multimedia, images, audio and video clips, animations, virtual reality and others, enabling flexible, interactive and adaptive learning, without limitation of time and place and method of access, anywhere and at any time.
- 9a. (new - SG, issue 11 of 2023) " Electronically readable textbooks " are electronic products whose content is completely identical to the content of the approved textbooks created as a printed edition.
10. (new - SG, issue 82 of 2020) " Providing support for personal development remotely in an electronic environment " is the performance of any of the activities for support for personal development through the use of information and communication technologies, since the pedagogical specialist and the children or students are not physically in the same place.
11. (previous item 10 - SG, issue 82 of 2020) " Publisher of a knowledge booklet, textbook and educational set " is a natural person registered under the Commerce Act , or a legal entity to which the authors have granted their copyrights for participation in an evaluation and approval procedure opened by the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as for the subsequent printing and distribution activities.
12. (previous item 11, supplemented - SG, issue 82 of 2020) " Qualification credit " is a measure of the time in which the pedagogical specialist has trained to improve his/her qualification under programs of the organizations under Art. 222, para. 1. One qualification credit is awarded for 16 academic hours, of which no less than 8 academic hours are attended, including in synchronous distance learning in an electronic environment.
13. (previous item 12 - SG, issue 82 of 2020) " Key competences " are a complex of interdependent knowledge, skills and attitudes or relationships necessary for the personal development of the individual throughout life, for the development of an active civic position and participation in social life, as well as

for his suitability for realization on the labor market, defined at national level in accordance with the European Reference Framework for Key Competences for Lifelong Learning, adopted by Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006.

14. (previous item 13 - SG, issue 82 of 2020) " Literacy course " is training for the acquisition of competencies for the initial stage of primary education, sufficient for continuing education at a later stage.

15. (previous item 14 - SG, issue 82 of 2020) " Mother language " is the language spoken in the family:

a) children and students from ethnic minority groups that traditionally or to a significant extent inhabit the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria;

b) the children of citizens of member states of the European Union, the European Economic Area and the Swiss Confederation, exercising employment activities on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

16. (new - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Non-traditional sexual orientation " are different from the generally accepted and established in the Bulgarian legal tradition concepts of emotional, romantic, sexual or sensual attraction between persons of opposite sexes.

17. (previous item 15 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 16 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Educational environment " is a set of conditions, factors and elements guaranteeing the effective conduct of the educational process and active interaction of all stakeholders to achieve sustainability in the functioning of the system of preschool and school education.

18. (new - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 17 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Distance learning in an electronic environment " is training that is carried out through the use of information and communication technologies, since the trainer and the trainees are not physically in the same place.

19. (previous item 16 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 18 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Training organizations " are organizations established in accordance with the Commerce Act , the Non-profit Legal Entities Act or the Cooperatives Act , to carry out activities related to training, maintaining and improving the qualifications of pedagogical specialists.

20. (previous item 17 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 19 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Common European Framework of Reference for Languages " (for learning, teaching and assessment) is an act of the Council of Europe, prepared in accordance with Recommendations R (82) 18 and R (98) 6 of the Committee of Ministers "for the achievement of greater unity among member states", which constitutes a common basis for the development of foreign language curricula, regulatory acts, examinations and textbooks. It defines the knowledge and skills that must be acquired in a foreign language for the purposes of successful communication through levels of competence that allow the progress of the learner to be measured both at each stage of training and in the long term.

21. (previous item 18 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 20 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Dropout from school " is the deregistration from school of a student up to 18 years of age on the grounds of Art. 173, para. 2, items 2 and 3 before completion of the last grade of high school, if the person is not enrolled in another school.

22. (new - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 21 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Party activity " is any activity carried out on behalf of and/or for the account of a political party registered under the terms and conditions of the Political Parties Act , or of a coalition or initiative committee registered for participation in elections under the terms and conditions of the Electoral Code , or of persons who set political goals and carry out political activity inherent only to political parties.

23. (new - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 22 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Political activity " is a purposeful activity for the acquisition of state power or exerting influence for its redistribution, including through propaganda and agitation activity with political goals in favor or to the detriment of political parties, movements or coalitions, as well as candidates for elected positions.

24. (previous item 19 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 21 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 23 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Printed edition with electronic version " is a printed edition with a version presented in digital form, enabling visualization of processes, phenomena and actions and for interactive learning.

25. (previous item 20 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 22 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 24 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Repeated " within the meaning of Art. 347 - 351 is the violation committed after one year from the entry into force of the penal decree by which the person was punished for the same violation.

26. (previous item 21 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 23 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 25 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Early school leaver " is a person aged between 18 and 24, having completed at most primary education, who does not participate in any form of education or training.

27. (previous item 22 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 24 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 26 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Inclusive education " is a process of awareness, acceptance and support of the individuality of each child or student and the diversity of needs of all children and students through the activation and inclusion of resources aimed at removing obstacles to teaching and learning and at creating opportunities for the development and participation of children and students in all aspects of community life.

28. (previous item 23 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 25 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 27 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Psychosocial rehabilitation " is a complex of activities to support students with

difficulties, disabilities or mental health disorders to achieve an optimal level of independence and to acquire and apply skills necessary for full participation in school.

29. (previous item 24 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 26 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 28 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Resource support for children and students " is the provision of general and additional support based on the assessment of the needs of children and students, which includes the implementation of activities by specialists aimed at the personal development of children and students with special educational needs, and with a view to achieving the goals set out in the support plans and in their individual curricula.

30. (previous item 25 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 27 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 29 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Rehabilitation for communication disorders " is a complex of activities to support children and students with difficulties, impairment or disorder of language, speech, cognitive processes and social behavior.

31. (previous item 26 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 28 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 30 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Parent " is the person who exercises parental rights within the meaning of the Family Code .

32. (new - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 29 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 31 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Synchronous distance learning in an electronic environment " is distance learning in an electronic environment, in which the trainer and the trainees interact in real time, simultaneously, in person, through visual contact through an electronic platform.

33. (new - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 30 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 32 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Synchronous provision of support for personal development from a distance in an electronic environment " is provision of support for personal development from a distance in an electronic environment, in which the pedagogical specialist and the children or students interact in real time, simultaneously, in person, through visual contact through an electronic platform.

34. (previous item 27 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 31 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 33 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Special educational needs " of a child and student are the educational needs that may arise in the event of sensory impairments, physical impairments, multiple impairments, intellectual disabilities, language and speech disorders, specific learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, emotional and behavioral disorders.

35. (previous item 28 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 32 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 34 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Third country " is any country that is not a member of the European Union and is not a state party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, or the Swiss Confederation.

36. (previous item 29 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 33 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 35 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Student with chronic diseases " is a student with moderate, compensated and convalescent forms of the relevant chronic disease.

37. (previous item 30 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 34 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 36 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Teacher-mentor " is a teacher who assists a trainee teacher or a newly appointed teacher and provides him with methodological support for effective inclusion in the educational process, motivates professional improvement and career development.

38. (previous item 31 - SG, issue 82 of 2020, previous item 35 - SG, issue 34 of 2022, previous item 37 - SG, issue 69 of 2024) " Funding authority " is the primary budget spending authority within the meaning of the Public Finance Act , from whose budget the activities in the school, in the kindergarten, the personal development support center or in the specialized service unit are financed.

§ 2. (1) The provisions of this law shall apply to evening schools in accordance with the specifics and organization of education therein.

(2) The provisions of Chapter Fourteen shall not apply to religious schools, evening schools, schools attached to places of deprivation of liberty, special schools under Art. 44, Para. 1, Items 2 and 3 , as well as to private kindergartens and private schools which do not receive funds from the state budget.

§ 3. (Amended - SG, issue 58 of 2017, effective 18.07.2017, amended - SG, issue 102 of 2022, effective 01.01.2023, amended - SG, issue 102 of 2023) The vocational high schools under Art. 38, para. 4 do not include the vocational high schools financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as these vocational high schools are municipal.

§ 4. Foreign countries may open kindergartens or schools on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by international agreements to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party.

§ 5. (1) Kindergartens and schools established and providing education in the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with the requirements of a foreign country shall, for the purposes of this law, be equated with kindergartens and schools operating on the territory of the relevant foreign country.

(2) The provisions of Chapter Eight shall apply to the results of education in kindergartens and schools under Paragraph 1 .

§ 5a. (New - SG, issue 42 of 2019, effective 28.05.2019) The state kindergartens under Art. 35, para. 2, item 1 shall also admit children of military personnel and civilian employees in multinational formations or who hold positions in foreign representations of the Republic of Bulgaria, in international organizations or in other international initiatives on the territory of the country and abroad.

§ 5b. (New - SG, issue 17 of 2020) (1) The system of preschool and school education also includes the units under § 4k of the additional provisions of the Higher Education Act , which apply the provisions of this Act, provided for state vocational high schools, in accordance with the specifics and organization of education in them and to the extent not otherwise provided for in the Higher Education Act .

(2) The Minister of Education and Science and the head of the regional education department shall exercise control over the activities of the units under paragraph 1 for compliance with this Act and the subordinate regulations for its implementation.

(3) Upon establishment of violations, the Minister of Education and Science, respectively the head of the regional education department or officials authorized by them shall issue mandatory prescriptions and set a deadline for their implementation.

(4) The mandatory prescriptions under paragraph 3 may be appealed under the procedure of the Administrative Procedure Code .

(5) The school curriculum of the units under para. 1 shall be coordinated, adopted and approved in accordance with the procedure of art. 94, para. 5 .

(6) The exception under Art. 103, para. 4, item 3 shall also be allowed for the training in the units under para. 1.

(7) During the training in the units under para. 1, grades shall also be given for the subjects, modules or activities provided for study in the optional classes of the school curriculum.

Transitional and Final Provisions

§ 6. The law repeals:

1. The Public Education Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 86 of 1991; amended in No. 90 of 1996, No. 36, 124 and 153 of 1998, No. 67 and 68 of 1999, No. 90 and 95 of 2002, No. 71, 86 and 114 of 2003, No. 40 of 2004, No. 28, 94, 103 and 105 of 2005, No. 41 and 105 of 2006, No. 113 of 2007, No. 50 of 2008, No. 35, 36 and 74 of 2009, Nos. 50 and 78 of 2010, Nos. 9, 23 and 99 of 2011, No. 102 of 2012, Nos. 68, 84 and 109 of 2013 and No. 61 of 2014).

2. The Law on the Level of Education, the General Educational Minimum and the Curriculum (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 67 of 1999; amended in Nos. 90 and 95 of 2002, No. 29 of 2003, No. 40 of 2004, Nos. 41 and 105 of 2006, No. 50 of 2008, Nos. 36 and 74 of 2009, No. 68 of 2013 and No. 61 of 2014).

§ 7. Municipal special kindergartens existing at the time of the entry into force of the law shall continue to carry out their activities as municipal kindergartens within the meaning of this law.

§ 8. (1) The junior high schools, high schools, secondary general education schools and vocational high schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the Act under Art. 26, para. 1, items 2, 4, 6 and 8 of the repealed Public Education Act shall continue to carry out their activities under this Act as primary schools, specialized high schools, secondary schools and vocational high schools, respectively.

(2) The rehabilitation schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the law shall continue to operate as secondary schools.

(3) Proposals for the transformation of the municipal primary schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the Act under Art. 26, Para. 1, Item 3 of the repealed Public Education Act into schools under Art. 38, Para. 1, Item 1 of this Act may be submitted throughout the year no later than May 31, 2017. After the expiry of this term, the proposals for transformation shall be submitted in compliance with the term of Chapter Eighteen .

(4) The primary schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the law under Art. 26, Para. 1, Item 3 of the repealed Public Education Act may be transformed into unified schools under Art. 38, Para. 1, Item 4 of this Act after an analysis and opinion of the regional education department and a decision of the relevant municipal council.

(5) Proposals for the transformation of existing schools under Art. 26, Para. 1, Item 5 of the repealed Public Education Act with a "science and mathematics" and "humanities" profile, which provide admission to the 5th grade, into schools under Art. 38, Para. 1, Item 5 of this Act shall be submitted at the request of the school and under the conditions of Para. 3.

(6) Primary and junior high schools established at the time of the entry into force of the law have the right to provide education in the 8th grade during the 2016-2017 school year and to issue a certificate of primary education.

(7) Schools established at the time of the entry into force of the law under Art. 26, para. 1, item 5 of the repealed Public Education Act with a "science and mathematics" or "humanities" profile and with admission to grade V have the right to continue providing education in grade V, VI and VII to students who were admitted before the entry into force of the law.

(8) The employment relationships of the workers and employees of the transformed schools under para. 1 shall be regulated in accordance with Art. 123 of the Labor Code .

§ 9. (1) (Amended - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) The state and municipal non-specialized schools under Art. 38, para. 1 and 2 existing at the time of the entry into force of the law shall continue to operate as state and municipal schools, respectively.

(2) By 1 November 2016, the Council of Ministers, upon a proposal from the Minister of Education and Science, shall by decision declare the state and municipal schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the Act under Art. 26, para. 1, items 1 - 7 of the repealed Public Education Act to be of national importance within the meaning of Art. 38, para. 9 of this Act. The decision shall be published in the State Gazette.

(3) By the decision under paragraph 2, the municipal schools shall be declared state schools.

(4) (Amended - SG No. 98/2016, effective 01.01.2017) By order of the Minister of Education and Science upon proposal of the mayor of the municipality following a decision of the municipal council, the state non-specialized schools under para. 1, which have not been declared national under the procedure of para. 2, may be declared municipal and a change of the financing body may be carried out under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of Chapter Eighteen, Section I , provided for the state vocational high schools.

(5) The employment relationships of the workers and employees in the schools under paragraphs 2 and 4 shall be regulated in accordance with Article 123 of the Labor Code .

(6) (Amended - SG, issue 98 of 2016, effective 01.01.2017) The properties provided before the entry into force of the order for change of the financing body of the schools under para. 4 - public state property, from the date of entry into force of the order for change of the financing body shall pass into the ownership of the municipality on the territory of which they are located and shall become public municipal property, and the items - state property shall become the property of the municipality financing the school.

(7) The properties and belongings under paragraph 6 shall be provided for management by the school that managed them until the entry into force of the law, and shall be used only for the purposes of the educational process, without changing their intended purpose.

(8) When the seat of the school managing the properties under paragraph 6 at the time of the entry into force of the law is outside the territory of the municipality that acquires them after its entry into force, the acquiring municipality shall provide the properties for management to schools financed by it.

§ 10. (1) The vocational high schools established before the entry into force of the law, financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, shall become municipal.

(2) The agricultural land, properties and belongings provided to the vocational high schools under paragraph 1 until the entry into force of the law shall continue to be used to ensure their activities in accordance with the procedure of this law.

§ 11. Bulgarian kindergartens and schools with foreign participation existing at the time of the entry into force of the law shall continue to operate as state kindergartens or schools within the meaning of Art. 35, Para. 2, Item 2 and Art. 43, Item 4 .

§ 12. (1) Hospital schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the law shall be closed, as of January 1, 2017, or shall be transformed into personal development support centers by order of the mayor of the municipality following a decision of the municipal council.

(2) The order under paragraph 1 shall determine the activities under Article 49 , the seat and the address of management of the relevant center.

(3) The employment relationships of the workers and employees of the transformed centers under para. 1 shall be regulated under Art. 123 of the Labor Code .

(4) Students from closed hospital schools shall continue their education during the period of their treatment under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of Article 111 or 112 .

(5) The properties and belongings provided for the management of the hospital schools - state or municipal property, respectively, shall be transferred to the management of the Ministry of Education and Science, respectively to the management of the municipality on whose territory they are located.

(6) The mandatory documentation of the closed hospital schools shall be kept in the relevant regional education department or in a school designated by the head of the regional education department.

§ 13. (1) Within one year from the entry into force of the law, the special schools shall be transformed into state and municipal centers for special educational support by an order of the Minister of Education and Science, issued under the conditions and according to the procedure of Chapter Eighteen, Section I. (2) The order under paragraph 1 shall determine the activities under Article 49 , the seat and the address of management of the relevant center. (3) The employment relationships of the workers and employees of the transformed centers under para. 1 shall be regulated under Art. 123 of the Labor Code .

§ 14. (1) Foreign schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the law shall continue to carry out their activities under the terms and conditions of the agreement under which they were established. (2) After the entry into force of the law "American College - Sofia", it continues to carry out its activities under the terms of Decision No. 440 of the Council of Ministers of 1992 on the opening of a private school "American College - Sofia" (SG, issue 90 of 1992), applying the provisions of this law, provided for a specialized high school, in accordance with the specifics and organization of education. The school has the right to issue documents for completed grade, stage and for secondary education in accordance with the procedure of this law. (3) A stamp with an image of the state coat of arms on the documents under Article 34 , issued by "American College" - Sofia, shall be affixed to the relevant regional education department under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the state educational standard for information and documents.

§ 15. The vocational colleges existing at the time of the entry into force of the law shall continue to carry out their activities under the terms and conditions of the Vocational Education and Training Act , and until the academic year 2016-2017 the normative acts in force until the entry into force of this law shall apply to them.

§ 16. (1) Within one year from the entry into force of the law, persons who have received permission to open a private kindergarten or private school under the terms and conditions and according to the procedure of the repealed Public Education Act shall bring their legal organizational form or their registration into compliance with the requirements of this law or establish a private kindergarten or private school as a commercial company, cooperative or non-profit legal entity. (2) No later than one month after the expiration of the term under paragraph 1, the persons who have received permission to open a private kindergarten or private school under the terms and conditions of the repealed Public Education Act shall submit an application for continuation of the activity of the private kindergarten or private school under the terms and conditions of this Act. (3) The application under para. 2 shall contain the details under art. 330, para. 2 and shall indicate the legal entity that will continue the activities of the existing private kindergarten or private school. (4) The application under para. 2 shall be accompanied by the documents certifying the fulfillment of the requirements of para. 1, as well as a declaration of the consent of the management bodies of the legal entity that will continue the activity of the private kindergarten or private school - when this is not the person who received permission to open the kindergarten or school under the terms and conditions of the repealed Public Education Act . (5) The Minister of Education and Science shall, within one month of submitting the application under paragraph 2, issue an order authorizing or refusing to authorize the continuation of the activities of the private kindergarten or private school. (6) The Minister of Education and Science shall refuse to permit the continuation of the activities of the private kindergarten or private school when:
1. the legal entity that will continue the activity is not established as a commercial company, a non-profit legal entity, a cooperative or as a company under the legislation of a Member State;
2. the requirement of Article 329, paragraphs 2 and 3 has not been complied with . (7) Based on the order for permission to continue the activity, the private kindergarten or private school shall be entered in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education. (8) The Minister of Education and Science or an official authorized by him shall issue a certificate for the entry under paragraph 7 within 7 days of its completion. (9) From the entry in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education and the issuance of a certificate of entry, the legal entity that continues the activity of the private kindergarten or private school shall assume the rights, obligations, legal relationships, property, assets and liabilities on the balance sheet of the kindergarten or school. (10) After the expiry of the term under para. 2, the Minister of Education and Science shall, by order, close the private kindergartens and private schools for which no application has been submitted under para. 2 or for which a refusal has been made under para. 6. The order shall be promulgated in the State Gazette and shall enter into force on the day of promulgation, unless otherwise provided therein. (11) The order under paragraph 10 shall determine the conditions and procedure for redirecting students and for storing the mandatory documentation of the closed private kindergartens and schools.

(12) The legal successor to the rights and obligations of a private kindergarten or private school closed under the terms of paragraph 10 is the person who received permission to open the kindergarten or school under the repealed Public Education Act .

(13) Until the issuance of the order under paragraph 5 or until the closure of the private kindergartens and private schools existing at the time of the entry into force of the law, their legal organizational form, the relations with the person who received permission to open them, the conditions and procedure for transformation, change and closure shall be regulated in accordance with the repealed Public Education Act and the relevant by-laws for its implementation.

§ 17. A subsidy from the state budget under the terms and conditions of this law shall be provided from the budget year 2018 for private kindergartens and private schools entered in the register of institutions in the system of preschool and school education.

§ 18. (1) Upon the entry into force of the law:

1. the existing municipal service units - out-of-school pedagogical institutions and for organized recreation and sports, shall continue to carry out their activities under this law as centers for support for personal development depending on their activities under Article 49 , and shall have the right to retain their names;

2. the existing state service units, with the exception of the resource centers for supporting the integrated education and upbringing of children and students with special educational needs and the National Children's Palace, shall continue to carry out their activities under this law as the relevant specialized service units depending on their activities under Art. 50 .

(2) Within three months of the entry into force of the law, following a decision of the municipal council, the mayor of the relevant municipality shall determine by order the activities under Art. 49 of the institutions under Para. 1, item 1.

(3) Within 5 months of the entry into force of the law, the relevant municipal council shall adopt regulations for the organization and activities of the institutions under paragraph 1, item 1.

(4) Within three months of the entry into force of the Act, the Minister of Education and Science shall determine by order the activities under Article 50 of the relevant institutions under Paragraph 1, Item 2 and shall bring their regulations for their activities into compliance with this Act.

(5) The employment relationships of the workers and employees of the transformed institutions under para. 1 shall be regulated in accordance with Art. 123 of the Labor Code .

§ 19. (1) Upon the entry into force of the Act, the National Children's Palace shall continue to carry out its activities under this Act as a specialized service unit under Art. 50, Para. 1, Item 2 and may also carry out activities under Art. 49, Para. 1, Item 1 .

(2) The activities under Art. 49, para. 1, item 1 , which are not financed from the state budget, shall be carried out against payment by the National Children's Palace in the amount, under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by order of the Minister of Education and Science.

(3) Within three months of the entry into force of the law, the Minister of Education and Science shall bring the regulations for the activities of the National Children's Palace into compliance with this law.

(4) The employment relationships of the workers and employees of the National Children's Palace under para. 1 shall be regulated under the terms of Art. 123 of the Labor Code .

§ 20. (1) Upon the entry into force of the Act, the State Speech Therapy Centre shall continue to carry out its activities under this Act as a specialized service unit under Art. 50, para. 1, items 3 and 5 and may also carry out activities under Art. 49, para. 1, item 3 .

(2) Within three months of the entry into force of the law, the Minister of Education and Science shall bring the regulations for the activities of the State Speech Therapy Center into compliance with this law.

(3) The employment relationships of the workers and employees of the State Speech Therapy Center under para. 1 shall be regulated in accordance with Art. 123 of the Labor Code .

§ 21. (1) Upon the entry into force of the law, the resource centers for supporting the integrated education and upbringing of children and students with special educational needs shall be transformed by order of the Minister of Education and Science into regional centers for supporting the process of inclusive education under Art. 50, para. 3 for the implementation of the activities under Art. 50, para. 1, items 2, 3 and 5 .

(2) The order under paragraph 1 shall determine the activities under Article 50 , the seat and the address of management of the relevant unit.

(3) The employment relationships of the workers and employees of the transformed centers under para. 1 shall be regulated in accordance with Art. 123 of the Labor Code .

(4) The Minister of Education and Science shall, within three months from the entry into force of this Act, issue regulations on the organization and activities of the regional centers for supporting the process of inclusive education.

§ 22. (1) State service units existing at the time of the entry into force of the Act within the meaning of Art. 33a of the repealed Public Education Act , other than those specified under paragraph 18, para. 1, item 2 , which do not perform activities under Art. 49 or 50 , shall be closed by order of the Minister of Education and Science within 6 months of the entry into force of the Act.

(2) The archive of the units under paragraph 1 shall be accepted by the Ministry of Education and Science.

§ 23. (1) Upon the entry into force of the law, the regional education inspectorates shall continue to carry out their activities as regional education departments within the meaning of this law.

(2) The employment and service relationships of the employees under paragraph 1 shall be preserved.

§ 24. (1) Students who enter the 1st and 5th grades in the 2016-2017 school year, students who enter the 1st, 5th and 8th grades in the 2017-2018 school year, the 2018-2019 school year and the 2019-2020 school year, as well as students who enter the 8th grade in the 2020-2021 school year, shall be educated according to school curricula and curricula approved under the terms and conditions of this law.

(2) During the school years under para. 1, students, other than those specified in para. 1, shall be trained and complete their education according to school curricula and study programs approved under the terms and conditions of the repealed Public Education Act and the Act on the Level of Education, the General Educational Minimum and the Study Program . The school curricula of students who are trained to acquire vocational education shall be amended, with the teaching time for the subjects of vocational training in grades 11 and 12 being distributed only in annual number of hours.

(3) The students under para. 2 acquire primary education after successfully completing grade VII. The content of the certificate of primary education that these students receive is determined in the state educational standard for information and documents.

(4) Students who are in the 8th grade during the 2015-2016 school year shall acquire primary education under the terms of the repealed Public Education Act and receive a certificate of primary education in accordance with the state educational requirement under Art. 16, item 10 of the same Act.

(5) The students under para. 2 shall acquire secondary education under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure of art. 24 of the repealed Public Education Act . The content of the secondary education diploma that these students receive shall be determined by the state educational requirement under art. 16, item 10 of the repealed Public Education Act .

(6) Students under para. 2 who are studying for the acquisition of professional education may, at their request, not take the second state matriculation examination under art. 24, para. 3 of the repealed Public Education Act , and instead, the arithmetic mean score from the scores from the state exams for the acquisition of professional qualification shall be entered in the secondary education diploma in the column for the second state matriculation examination passed.

§ 25. (1) A person who, before the entry into force of the law, has successfully completed the last grade of school education, but has not appeared for or has not successfully passed the relevant exams provided for the acquisition of secondary education or secondary vocational education, after the entry into force of this law shall acquire secondary education after successfully passing the state matriculation exams and/or the state exam for the acquisition of professional qualification.

(2) The number and subjects in which the state matriculation examinations under paragraph 1 are taken shall be determined by the legal acts in force at the time of acquiring the right to take the relevant examinations.

(3) A person under para. 1 who, before the entry into force of the law, has successfully completed the last grade of school education, but has not successfully passed the relevant professional qualification exams provided for the acquisition of secondary education, after the entry into force of this law shall acquire secondary education after successfully passing the state exam under art. 134, para. 3 , and until the holding of the state matriculation exams under this law - under art. 24, para. 3 of the repealed Public Education Act .

(4) The exams successfully passed before the entry into force of the law, necessary for acquiring secondary education or secondary vocational education, shall be recognized regardless of the type of exam and the educational content on which they were taken, and the person shall take state matriculation exams, respectively state exams for acquiring a qualification in a profession, in the remaining subjects, respectively for the same profession, on the educational content intended for study at the time of appearing as general educational preparation, respectively vocational preparation.

(5) If the subjects in which examinations are provided for under para. 1 do not correspond to the subjects under Art. 134, para. 2 and Art. 135, para. 1 , respectively under Art. 24, para. 3 of the repealed Public Education Act - until the state matriculation examinations are held under this Act, the subject in which the person will take the state matriculation examination shall be determined under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure specified in the state educational standard for the assessment of the results of the students' education.

(6) If the person has been trained to acquire a qualification in a profession that is not included in the List of Professions for Vocational Education and Training, the state examinations under para. 3 shall be conducted for a profession determined under the conditions and according to the procedure of para. 5.

(7) The state matriculation examinations shall be organized and conducted under the conditions and according to the procedure of the additional state matriculation examinations, respectively under Art. 24, para. 4 of the repealed Public Education Act - until the conduct of the state matriculation examinations under this Act, and the state examinations for acquiring a qualification in a profession - under the conditions and according to the procedure of Art. 134, para. 3 .

§ 26. Paragraph 25 shall apply accordingly to a person who, before the entry into force of the law, began his/her studies in the last grade of high school, but successfully completes it after the entry into force of the law.

§ 27. (1) A person who, upon the entry into force of the law, holds the position of a pedagogical specialist, retains his employment relationship if he had the right to hold the relevant position at the time of the legal relationship.

(2) A person found at the time of the entry into force of the law in the position of "assistant director of..." shall be reappointed to the position of "deputy director of...", and a person found in the position of "educator" in the semi-boarding group shall be reappointed to the position of "teacher".

(3) A person who, upon the entry into force of the law, held the position of "junior teacher" or "junior educator", shall be reappointed to the position of "teacher" or "educator", respectively.

§ 28. Textbooks and teaching aids approved prior to the entry into force of the law shall continue to be used in the system of preschool and school education until the approval of new educational books, textbooks and teaching kits based on curricula approved under the terms and conditions of this law.

§ 29. (1) A person who, before the entry into force of the law, has acquired a document for successfully completing a literacy course or a course for mastering the educational content in subjects of classes at the junior high school stage, organized by a school in the system of public education under national and international projects and programs, shall enjoy the rights of a person who has received a document under Art. 168, para. 1, items 3 and 4 .

(2) A person under para. 1 who, before the entry into force of this Act, has acquired a document for successfully completing a course for mastering the educational content in subjects intended for grade VII, organized by a school in the system of public education, shall enjoy the rights of a person who has received a document under art. 168, para. 1, item 5 .

§ 30. Until the entry into force of the by-laws provided for in this law, the by-laws in force in the system of public education shall apply, to the extent that they do not contradict it.

§ 31. Within one month of the entry into force of the law, the relevant authorities shall issue or adopt the by-laws provided for in this law, with the exception of the acts for adoption of the state educational standards under Art. 22, para. 2, items 3, 4 and 13 .

§ 32. By May 1, 2016, the Council of Ministers shall submit to the National Assembly a bill amending and supplementing the Vocational Education and Training Act to bring it into line with this Act.

§ 33. In the Labor Code (promulgated in the State Gazette, Nos. 26 and 27 of 1986; amended in No. 6 of 1988, Nos. 21, 30 and 94 of 1990, Nos. 27, 32 and 104 of 1991, Nos. 23, 26, 88 and 100 of 1992; Decision No. 12 of the Constitutional Court of 1995 - No. 69 of 1995; amended in No. 87 of 1995, Nos. 2, 12 and 28 of 1996, No. 124 of 1997, No. 22 of 1998; Decision No. 11 of the Constitutional Court of 1998 - No. 52 of 1998; amended, Nos. 56, 83, 108 and 133 of 1998, Nos. 51, 67 and 110 of 1999, No. 25 of 2001, Nos. 1, 105 and 120 of 2002, Nos. 18, 86 and 95 of 2003, No. 52 of 2004, Nos. 19, 27, 46, 76, 83 and 105 of 2005, Nos. 24, 30, 48, 57, 68, 75, 102 and 105 of 2006, Nos. 40, 46, 59, 64 and 104 of 2007, No. 43, 94, 108 and 109 of 2008, No. 35, 41 and 103 of 2009, No. 15, 46, 58 and 77 of 2010; Decision No. 12 of the Constitutional Court of 2010 - No. 91 of 2010; amended, No. 100 and 101 of 2010, No. 18, 33, 61 and 82 of 2011, No. 7, 15, 20 and 38 of 2012; Decision No. 7 of the Constitutional Court of 2012 - No. 49 of 2012; amended, No. 77 and 82 of 2012, No. 15 and 104 of 2013, No. 1, 27 and 61 of 2014 and No. 54 and 61 of 2015) the following amendments and supplements are made:

1. In Art. 230, para. 2 , sentence two, the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)".
2. In Art. 232 :
 - a) in paragraph 1 the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)";
 - b) in paragraph 4 the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)".
3. In Art. 330, para. 2, item 10 is created:

"10. a pedagogical specialist within the meaning of the Preschool and School Education Act has been convicted of an intentional crime of a general nature, regardless of rehabilitation."

§ 34. In the Law on Religious Denominations (promulgated in the State Gazette, issue 120 of 2002; amended in issue 33 of 2006, issue 59 of 2007, issue 74 of 2009, issue 68 of 2013 and issue 61 of 2015), the following amendments shall be made to Article 33 :

1. Paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

"(1) At the request of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and the registered religious denominations, religious schools may be opened under the terms and conditions of the Preschool and School Education Act."

2. Paragraphs 2 and 3 are repealed.

3. In paragraph 4 the words "the schools under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3" shall be replaced by "theological schools".

§ 35. In the Vocational Education and Training Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 68 of 1999; amended in Nos. 1 and 108 of 2000, No. 111 of 2001, Nos. 103 and 120 of 2002, No. 29 of 2003, Nos. 28, 77 and 94 of 2005, Nos. 30 and 62 of 2006; amended in No. 63 of 2006; amended in Nos. 13 and 26 of 2008, Nos. 36 and 74 of 2009, Nos. 50 and 97 of 2010, Nos. 66, 68 and 70 of 2013, Nos. 61, 98 and 107 of 2014 and No. 14 of 2015) the following amendments are made:

1. In Article 5 :

a) in para. 4 in the text before item 1 the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)";

b) in paragraph 5 the word "independently" is replaced by "informally".

2. In Art. 9, para. 3 the word "independently" is replaced by "informally".

3. In Art. 17a :

a) in the title and in para. 1 the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)";

b) in paragraph 2 the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)";

c) in paragraph 5 the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)".

4. In Art. 35, para. 1 , sentence two, the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)".

5. In Art. 40, para. 1 the word "independently" is replaced by "informally".

6. In Art. 56, para. 1, item 7 the words "(dual training)" shall be replaced by "(dual training system)".

7. In § 1a of the additional provisions:

a) in item 4 the word "independently" is replaced by "informally";

b) in item 8 the word "Independently" is replaced by "Informally".

§ 36. In the Local Taxes and Fees Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 117 of 1997; amended in Nos. 71, 83, 105 and 153 of 1998, No. 103 of 1999, Nos. 34 and 102 of 2000, No. 109 of 2001, Nos. 28, 45, 56 and 119 of 2002, Nos. 84 and 112 of 2003, Nos. 6, 18, 36, 70 and 106 of 2004, Nos. 87, 94, 100, 103 and 105 of 2005, Nos. 30, 36 and 105 of 2006 , No. 55 and 110 of 2007, No. 70 and 105 of 2008, No. 12, 19, 41 and 95 of 2009, No. 98 of 2010, No. 19, 28, 31, 35 and 39 of 2011; Decision No. 5 of the Constitutional Court of 2012 - No. 30 of 2012; amended, No. 53, 54 and 102 of 2012, No. 24, 30, 61 and 101 of 2013, No. 105 of 2014 and No. 14, 35 and 37 of 2015) in Art. 6, para. 1 the following additions are made:

1. A new letter "g" is created:

"d) for the activities of upbringing and education in compulsory pre-school education for the use of the kindergarten or school outside the activities financed by the state;"

2. A new letter "z" is created:

"h) for general support activities within the meaning of the Preschool and School Education Act, which are not financed from the state budget and are carried out by the personal development support centers;"

§ 37. In the Physical Education and Sports Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 58 of 1996; Decision No. 8 of the Constitutional Court of 1997 - No. 53 of 1997; amended in No. 124 of 1998, No. 51 and 81 of 1999, No. 53 of 2000; amended in No. 55 of 2000; amended in No. 64 of 2000, No. 75 of 2002; Decision No. 6 of the Constitutional Court of 2002 - No. 95 of 2002; amended in No. 120 of 2002, No. 96 of 2004, No. 88 and 103 of 2005, No. 30, 34, 36 and 80 of 2006, No. 41, 46 and 53 of 2007, No. 50 of 2008, No. 74 of 2009, No. 50 and 96 of 2010, No. 35 and 99 of 2011, No. 45 of 2012, No. 87 and 102 of 2012, No. 15 and 68 of 2013, No. 21 and 66 of 2014 and No. 14 and 61 of 2015) the following amendments are made:

1. In Art. 6, para. 3 the words "the system of public education" shall be replaced by "the system of pre-school and school education".

2. In Art. 21, paragraphs 1 and 2 are repealed.

3. In Article 23 :

a) in para. 1 the words "in V, VI, VII, VIII and IX class" are replaced by "in V, VI, VII and VIII class";

b) in paragraph 2, sentence one, the word "sports" shall be replaced by "specialized" and the words "VIII class" shall be replaced by "VII class";

c) in paragraph 4 the words "The Law on Public Education" shall be replaced by "The Law on Preschool and School Education";

(d) paragraph 5 is repealed;

(e) paragraph 8 is amended as follows:

"(8) The directors of the municipal sports schools shall be appointed by the head of the regional education department on the basis of a competition held in accordance with the Labor Code and under conditions specified in the Preschool and School Education Act.";

f) in paragraph 11 the word "sports" is replaced by "specialized".

4. In Art. 33c the words "kindergartens, schools and service units" shall be replaced by "institutions in the system of preschool and school education".

5. Article 50, paragraph 3 is amended as follows:

"(3) The state and municipalities shall provide free of charge, in whole or in part, for a certain period of time, sports and tourist sites and facilities to institutions in the system of pre-school and school education and to higher education institutions for the implementation of activities related to physical education, sports and tourism, and for training and competitive activities of pupils and students, under conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by the relevant authorities."

6. In Article 58a, the words "the system of public education" shall be replaced by "the system of pre-school and school education".

7. In Art. 59, para. 2 item 1 is amended as follows:

"1. programs and activities in physical education, sports and social tourism for children from kindergartens and students from schools and personal development support centers;"

§ 38. In the Family Benefits for Children Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 32 of 2002; amended in No. 120 of 2002, No. 112 of 2003, No. 69 of 2004, No. 105 of 2005, No. 21, 30, 33, 68 and 95 of 2006, No. 113 of 2007, No. 71 and 110 of 2008, No. 23 of 2009, No. 15 and 24 of 2010, No. 99 of 2011, No. 54 and 103 of 2012, No. 15 and 109 of 2013) and issue 57 of 2015) in art. 7, paragraphs 17 and 18 are created:

"(17) When, due to non-compliance with the conditions under para. 1, items 2 and 3, the monthly assistance under para. 1 is terminated or suspended before the expiry of the term for which it was granted, or its amount is reduced under the conditions of para. 14 or 15, the relevant school or kindergarten shall be provided with funds for implementing general and/or additional support for personal development under the conditions and according to the procedure of the Preschool and School Education Act.

(18) The funds under para. 17 shall be provided to the relevant school or kindergarten in an amount corresponding to the amount of the funds for the assistance, respectively the amount of the reduction and shall be planned under the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science."

§ 39. In the Tourism Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, issue 30 of 2013; amended in issues 68 and 109 of 2013, issue 40 of 2014 and issues 9 and 14 of 2015), the following amendments shall be made to Article 79 :

1. In paragraph 4, in the first sentence, the words "public education" shall be replaced by "pre-school and school education", the words "director of a kindergarten, school or service unit within the meaning of the Public Education Act" shall be replaced by "director of the relevant institution within the meaning of the Pre-school and School Education Act" and in the second sentence, the words "the relevant regional education inspectorate" shall be replaced by "the relevant regional education department".

2. In paragraph 5, the words "kindergartens, schools or service units in the system of public education" shall be replaced by "the relevant institution within the meaning of the Preschool and School Education Act".

§ 40. In the Act on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 46 of 2003; amended in No. 86 of 2005, No. 33 of 2008, No. 74 of 2009 and Nos. 68 and 84 of 2013) in Article 23 the words "The Act on Public Education" shall be replaced by "The Act on Preschool and School Education".

§ 41. The following amendments and supplements shall be made to the Law on the Defence and Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 35 of 2009; amended in Nos. 74, 82, 93 and 99 of 2009, Nos. 16, 88, 98 and 101 of 2010, Nos. 23, 48, 99 and 100 of 2011, Nos. 20, 33 and 38 of 2012, Nos. 15, 66 and 68 of 2013, Nos. 1 and 98 of 2014 and Nos. 14, 24 and 61 of 2015):

1. In Art. 26, item 16, after the word "discovers" a comma is placed and the words "transforms, changes" are added.

2. In Art. 94, para. 1 the words "and the Public Education Act" shall be deleted.

§ 42. The following amendments are made to the Act on the Integration of People with Disabilities (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 81 of 2004, amended in Nos. 28, 88, 94, 103 and 105 of 2005, Nos. 18, 30, 33, 37, 63, 95, 97 and 108 of 2006, Nos. 31, 46 and 108 of 2007, Nos. 41 and 74 of 2009, Nos. 24, 62 and 98 of 2010, Nos. 15, 66 and 68 of 2013, Nos. 27, 40 and 98 of 2014 and No. 14 of 2015):

1. In Art. 17, item 1, the words "schools under Art. 26, para. 1, items 1 - 10 of the Public Education Act and in kindergartens under Art. 18 of the same Act" shall be replaced by "in kindergartens and in schools under Art. 37, para. 1 and Art. 38, para. 2, items 1 - 3 of the Preschool and School Education Act".
2. In Article 47, the words "The Law on Public Education" shall be replaced by "The Law on Preschool and School Education".

§ 43. In the Act on Access and Disclosure of Documents and on Declaration of Affiliation of Bulgarian Citizens to the State Security and Intelligence Services of the Bulgarian People's Army (promulgated, State Gazette, issue 102 of 2006; amended, issues 41, 57 and 109 of 2007, issue 69 of 2008, issues 25, 35, 42, 82 and 93 of 2009, issues 18, 54 and 97 of 2010, issues 23, 32 and 48 of 2011, issues 25, 38, 87 and 103 of 2012, issue 15 of 2013 and issue 53 of 2014) in Art. 3, para. 2, item 3 the words "The Law on Public Education" shall be replaced by "The Law on Preschool and School Education".

§ 44. In the Value Added Tax Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 63 of 2006; amended in Nos. 86, 105 and 108 of 2006; Decision No. 7 of the Constitutional Court of 2007 - No. 37 of 2007; amended in Nos. 41, 52, 59, 108 and 113 of 2007, No. 106 of 2008, Nos. 12, 23, 74 and 95 of 2009, Nos. 94 and 100 of 2010, Nos. 19, 77 and 99 of 2011, Nos. 54, 94 and 103 of 2012, No. 23, 30, 68, 98, 101, 104 and 109 of 2013, No. 1, 105 and 107 of 2014 and No. 41 of 2015) in Art. 41 the following amendments are made:

1. In item 1, letter "a", the words "kindergartens, schools or their service units under the Public Education Act" shall be replaced by "institutions in the system of preschool and school education under the Preschool and School Education Act".

2. Point 3 is amended as follows:

"3. the delivery of textbooks, educational books and educational sets approved by the Minister of Education and Science, when the goods are delivered by the organizations under item 1, letter "a", as well as the delivery of textbooks, educational books and educational sets, when the goods are delivered by the organizations under item 1, letter "b";".

§ 45. In the Employment Promotion Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 112 of 2001; amended in Nos. 54 and 120 of 2002, Nos. 26, 86 and 114 of 2003, Nos. 52 and 81 of 2004, Nos. 27 and 38 of 2005, Nos. 18, 30, 33 and 48 of 2006, No. 46 of 2007, Nos. 26, 89 and 109 of 2008, Nos. 10, 32, 41 and 74 of 2009, Nos. 49, 59, 85 and 100 of 2010, Nos. 9 and 43 of 2011, No. 7 of 2012, No. 15, 68 and 70 of 2013, No. 54 and 61 of 2014 and No. 54 of 2015) the following amendments are made:

1. In Art. 58, item 2, the word "independently" is replaced by "informally".
2. In Art. 62, para. 3, sentence one, the words "under Art. 26 of the Public Education Act" shall be replaced by "under the Preschool and School Education Act", and in sentence two the words "by order of" shall be replaced by "by".
3. In § 1, item 18 of the additional provisions, the words "the system of public education" are replaced by "the system of preschool and school education".

§ 46. In the Road Traffic Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 20 of 1999; amended in No. 1 of 2000, No. 43 and 76 of 2002, No. 16 and 22 of 2003, No. 6, 70, 85 and 115 of 2004, No. 79, 92, 99, 102, 103 and 105 of 2005, No. 30, 34, 61, 64, 80, 82, 85 and 102 of 2006, No. 22, 51, 53, 97 and 109 of 2007, No. 36, 43, 69, 88 and 102 of 2008, No. 74, 75, 82 and 93 of 2009, No. 54, 98 and 100 of 2010, No. 10, 19, 39 and 48 of 2011; Decision No. 1 of the Constitutional Court of 2012 - No. 20 of 2012; amended, No. 47, 53, 54, 60 and 75 of 2012, No. 15 and 68 of 2013, No. 53 and 107 of 2014 and No. 14, 19 and 37 of 2015) the following amendments are made:

1. In Art. 151 :

a) (Effective from 01.08.2022) in para. 2 the word "primary" is replaced by "first secondary school stage";

b) in para. 5 the words "school under Art. 26, para. 1 of the Public Education Act" shall be replaced by "school under the Preschool and School Education Act or in a vocational college".

2. In Art. 152 :

a) in para. 3 the words "vocational schools, vocational high schools, vocational colleges, secondary general education schools with vocational classes" shall be replaced by "vocational high schools, vocational colleges, secondary schools with vocational training classes";

b) in paragraph 16 the words "Vocational schools, vocational high schools, vocational colleges, secondary general education schools with vocational classes" shall be replaced by "Vocational high schools, vocational colleges, secondary schools with vocational training classes".

§ 47. In the Corporate Income Tax Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 105 of 2006; amended in Nos. 52, 108 and 110 of 2007, Nos. 69 and 106 of 2008, Nos. 32, 35 and 95 of 2009, No. 94 of 2010, Nos. 19, 31, 35, 51, 77 and 99 of 2011, Nos. 40 and 94 of 2012, Nos. 15, 16, 23, 68, 91, 100 and 109 of 2013, Nos. 1, 105 and 107 of 2014 and Nos. 12, 22 and 35 of 2015) the following amendments are made:

1. In Art. 31, para. 1, item 3, the words "in accordance with the Public Education Act" shall be deleted.
2. In Art. 251, para. 1 the words "the system of public education" shall be replaced by "the system of pre-school and school education".

§ 48. The following amendments are made to the Forestry Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 19 of 2011; amended in No. 43 of 2011, Nos. 38, 60, 82 and 102 of 2012, Nos. 15, 27, 66 and 109 of 2013, Nos. 28, 53, 61 and 98 of 2014 and No. 60 of 2015):

1. In Art. 236, para. 5 the words "The Public Education Act, the Vocational Education and Training Act and the Level of Education, General Educational Minimum and Curriculum Act" shall be replaced by "The Preschool and School Education Act and the Vocational Education and Training Act".
2. In § 1 of the supplementary provision:
 - a) in item 33 the words "The Law on Public Education" shall be replaced by "The Law on Preschool and School Education" and the words "The Law on the Level of Education, the General Educational Minimum and the Curriculum" shall be deleted;
 - b) in item 49 the words "The Law on Public Education" shall be replaced by "The Law on Preschool and School Education" and the words "The Law on the Level of Education, the General Educational Minimum and the Curriculum" shall be deleted.

§ 49. The following amendments shall be made to the Law on the Execution of Sentences and Detention in Custody (promulgated in the State Gazette, issue 25 of 2009; amended in issues 74 and 82 of 2009, issues 32 and 73 of 2010, issues 81 of 2011, issues 103 of 2012, issues 15 and 68 of 2013, issues 53 of 2014 and issues 42 of 2015):

1. In Art. 160 :
 - a) in paragraph 1 the words "state educational requirements" shall be replaced by "state educational standards";
 - b) in paragraph 2 the words "The Law on Public Education" shall be replaced by "The Law on Preschool and School Education".
2. Article 161, paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

"(1) The curricula and the curricula shall be approved under the terms and conditions of the Preschool and School Education Act."
3. In Art. 162, paragraph 2 is amended as follows:

"(2) Prisoners who have reached the age of 16 shall be educated in the schools under paragraph 1 at their own request."

§ 50. In the Act on the Entry, Residence and Exit of the Republic of Bulgaria of Citizens of the European Union and Their Family Members (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 80 of 2006; amended in No. 109 of 2007, No. 69 of 2008, No. 36, 93 and 102 of 2009, No. 9 of 2011, No. 21 of 2012, No. 53 of 2014 and No. 14 of 2015) in Art. 15, Para. 2 the words "the system of public education" shall be replaced by "the system of pre-school and school education".

§ 51. In the Crafts Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 42 of 2001; amended in No. 112 of 2001, No. 56 of 2002, No. 99 and 105 of 2005, No. 10, 30, 34 and 81 of 2006, No. 53 of 2007, No. 19 and 82 of 2009, No. 15 of 2010, No. 28 of 2011 and No. 68 of 2013), the following amendments shall be made to Article 45 :

1. In paragraph 3 the words "the system of public education" shall be replaced by "the system of pre-school and school education".
2. In paragraph 4 the words "as well as in special schools established for persons up to 30 years of age with mental and other health problems" shall be deleted.

§ 52. In the Disaster Protection Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 102 of 2006; amended in Nos. 41 and 113 of 2007, Nos. 69 and 102 of 2008, Nos. 35, 74 and 93 of 2009, Nos. 61, 88 and 98 of 2010, Nos. 8, 39 and 80 of 2011, No. 68 of 2013, No. 53 of 2014 and No. 14 of 2015), the following amendments shall be made to Article 16 :

1. In paragraph 1 the words "the system of public education" shall be replaced by "the system of pre-school and school education".
2. In paragraph 3 the words "training, teaching materials and aids" shall be replaced by "training and teaching materials", and the words "public education" shall be replaced by "pre-school and school education".

§ 53. In the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 153 of 1998; amended in No. 70 of 1999, No. 42 and 112 of 2001, No. 45 and 54 of 2002, No. 37 and 103 of 2003, No. 37 and 70 of 2004, No. 11, 63 and 88 of 2005, No. 30 and 82 of 2006, No. 11, 29, 52, 63 and 109 of 2007, No. 13, 26, 28 and 69 of 2008, No. 12, 32, 36, 74, 82, 93 and 103 of 2009, No. 73 of 2010, No. 9 and 43 of 2011, No. 21 and 44 of 2012, No. 16, 23, 52, 68, 70 and 108 of 2013, No. 53 of 2014 and No. 14 of 2015) in Art. 24f, para. 4 the words "the system of public education" are replaced by "the system of preschool and school education".

§ 54. In the Higher Education Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 112 of 1995; amended in No. 28 of 1996, No. 56 of 1997; amended in No. 57 of 1997; amended in No. 58 of 1997, No. 60 of 1999; amended in No. 66 of 1999; amended in Nos. 111 and 113 of 1999, No. 54 of 2000, No. 22 of 2001, Nos. 40 and 53 of 2002, Nos. 48 and 70 of 2004, Nos. 77, 83 and 103 of 2005) , No. 30, 36, 62 and 108 of 2006, No. 41 of 2007, No. 13, 43 and 69 of 2008, No. 42, 74 and 99 of 2009, No. 38, 50, 56, 63 and 101 of 2010, No. 61 and 99 of 2011, No. 60 and 102 of 2012, No. 15, 63, 68 and 101 of 2013, No. 54, 66 and 107 of 2014 and No. 56 of 2015) in Art. 68, para. 4 the words "The Law on the Level of Education, the General Educational Minimum and the Curriculum" shall be replaced by "The Law on Preschool and School Education".

§ 55. In the Child Protection Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 48 of 2000; amended in Nos. 75 and 120 of 2002, Nos. 36 and 63 of 2003, Nos. 70 and 115 of 2004, Nos. 28, 94 and 103 of 2005, Nos. 30, 38 and 82 of 2006, No. 59 of 2007, No. 69 of 2008, Nos. 14, 47 and 74 of 2009, Nos. 42, 50, 59 and 98 of 2010, Nos. 28 and 51 of 2011, Nos. 32 and 40 of 2012 and Nos. 15, 68 and 84 of 2013) the following amendments are made:

1. In Art. 5b, para. 1 the words "regional education inspectorates" shall be replaced by "regional education departments".

2. In Art. 6a, para. 4 :

a) in item 3:

aa) in letter "a" the words "schools, kindergartens and service units in the system of public education" shall be replaced by "schools and kindergartens in the system of preschool and school education";

bb) in letter "b" the words "regional education inspectorates" shall be replaced by "regional education departments";

b) in item 8, letter "b" the words "service units" are replaced by "in the personal development support centers".

3. In Art. 17a, para. 1, item 14, the words "service units" shall be replaced by "personal development support centers".

4. In Art. 20a, para. 1 the words "the regional education inspectorate" shall be replaced by "the regional education department".

§ 56. In the Gambling Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 26 of 2012; amended in Nos. 54, 82 and 94 of 2012, No. 68 of 2013, Nos. 1 and 105 of 2014 and No. 61 of 2015) in Art. 44, Para. 1 the words "Chapter Four of the Public Education Act" shall be replaced by "The Preschool and School Education Act".

§ 57. In the Personal Income Tax Act (promulgated in the State Gazette, No. 95 of 2006; amended in Nos. 52, 64 and 113 of 2007, Nos. 28, 43 and 106 of 2008, Nos. 25, 32, 35, 41, 82, 95 and 99 of 2009, Nos. 16, 49, 94 and 100 of 2010, Nos. 19, 31, 35, 51 and 99 of 2011, Nos. 40, 81 and 94 of 2012, Nos. 23, 66, 100 and 109 of 2013, Nos. 1, 53, 98, 105 and 107 of 2014 and issues 12, 22 and 61 of 2015) in Art. 22, para. 1, item 1, letter "d" the words "in accordance with the Public Education Act" are deleted.

§ 58. (In force from 14.11.2015) (1) For the provision of education with textbooks and teaching kits to students who enter grades I and V during the 2016-2017 school year, the provisions of Chapter Six, Sections II and III and Chapter Seven shall apply , with the deadline for submitting the drafts of textbooks and teaching kits being 7 months.

(2) Activities in kindergartens, schools and service units of the public education system during the 2015-2016 school year shall be organized, implemented and controlled in accordance with the previous procedure.

§ 59. Until the entry into force of Chapter Sixteen on the financing of the system of preschool and school education, the provisions of the repealed Public Education Act shall apply accordingly .

§ 59a. (New - SG, issue 99 of 2017, effective 01.01.2018) Until the first inspection is carried out for all state and municipal kindergartens and schools in the system of preschool and school education, the assessment from the inspection shall not be applied from the methodology under Art. 284, para. 4 .

§ 60. The law shall enter into force on August 1, 2016, with the exception of:

1. Article 22, paragraph 2, items 3, 4 and 13 and paragraph 3 , Chapter Six, Sections I , II and III and § 58 , which shall enter into force one month after the promulgation of the law in the State Gazette;
2. Chapter Seven , which shall enter into force two months after the promulgation of the law in the "State Gazette";
3. Chapter Sixteen , which shall enter into force on 1 January 2017;
4. paragraph 46, item 1, letter "a" , which shall enter into force on August 1, 2022.

The law was adopted by the 43rd National Assembly on September 30, 2015 and was sealed with the official seal of the National Assembly.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW ON THE STATE BUDGET OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR 2017

(PROMOTED - SG, NO. 98 OF 2016, IN FORCE FROM 01.01.2017)

§ 20. The law shall enter into force on January 1, 2017.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE LABOR CODE

(PROMOTED - SG, NO. 105 OF 2016, IN FORCE FROM 30.12.2016)

§ 22. The law shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the "State Gazette", with the exception of §§ 5 , 6 , 17 , 18 , 19 and 20 , which shall enter into force on January 1, 2017.

Final provisions
TO THE LAW AMENDMENT OF THE LAW ON THE BULGARIAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY

(PROMOTED - SG, NO. 58 OF 2017, IN FORCE FROM 18.07.2017)

§ 76. The law shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW ON THE STATE BUDGET OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR 2018

(PROMOTED - SG, NO. 99 OF 2017, IN FORCE FROM 01.01.2018)

§ 2. In the event of a decrease in the funds for the maintenance of the activities for the upbringing and training of children and students for 2018 compared to the amount of funds for the same number of children and students, calculated on an annual basis based on the standard for one child or student in force as of December 31, 2017, the distribution between the primary budget spending units shall also include funds to compensate for the negative differences for the relevant activities.

§ 3. When allocating funds for financing activities for the "Education" function for 2018, the primary budget spending authorities may include in the formula under Art. 282, para. 6 of the Preschool and School Education Act an additional component to compensate for negative differences in the event of a decrease in funds for the relevant institution compared to the amount of funds for the same number of children and students, calculated according to the formula for 2017 on an annual basis according to the standard for one child or student, in force as of December 31, 2017.

§ 15. The law shall enter into force on January 1, 2018.

Final provisions
TO THE ACT AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT ON LABOR
MIGRATION AND LABOR MOBILITY

(PROMOTED - SG, NO. 24 OF 2018, IN FORCE FROM 23.05.2018)

§ 55. The law shall enter into force on May 23, 2018.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON RELIGIONS

(PROMISED IN SG, NO. 108 OF 2018, IN FORCE AS OF 01.01.2019)

§ 25. The law shall enter into force on January 1, 2019.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES ACT

(PROMISED IN SG, NO. 24 OF 2019, IN FORCE AS OF 01.07.2020, AMENDED WITH RESPECT TO THE ENTRY INTO FORCE - SG, NO. 101 OF 2019)

§ 45. (Amended - SG, issue 101 of 2019) The law shall enter into force on July 1, 2020, with the exception of:

1. paragraph 6, item 5, letter "a" , § 7, item 2, letters "a" and "b", item 3, item 6, letter "a", items 9 and 10 , § 18, item 2 in the part regarding "homes for medical and social care for children under the Medical Institutions Act" and § 20, item 2 in the part regarding the deletion of the words "and homes for medical and social care for children", and item 5, letter "c" , which shall enter into force on 1 January 2021;
2. paragraph 3, item 4, letters "e", "g" and "h" and § 28, item 1, letter "a", items 2 and 5 , which shall enter into force on January 1, 2019.
3. Article 22, para. 4 , Article 40 , Article 109, para. 1 , Article 124 , Article 161, para. 2 , § 3, item 6 , § 30 , 36 , 37 and 43 , which shall enter into force on the day of the promulgation of the law in the "State Gazette".

Final provisions
TO THE LAW AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON THE
DEFENSE AND ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

(PROMOTED - SG, NO. 42 OF 2019, IN FORCE FROM 28.05.2019)

§ 18. The law shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the "State Gazette", with the exception of § 5 , 6 , 12 and 14 , which shall enter into force on May 15, 2019.

Final provisions
TO THE LAW ON THE STATE BUDGET OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR 2020

(PROMISED IN SG, NO. 100 OF 2019, IN FORCE AS OF 01.01.2020)

§ 20. (1) Within one month of the promulgation of the law in the "State Gazette", the Council of Ministers shall adopt a program for the construction, extension, upgrading and reconstruction of nurseries, kindergartens and schools for the period 2020 - 2022, with an indicative budget for 2020 of up to BGN 70 million.

(2) Within two months of the promulgation of the law in the State Gazette, the Council of Ministers shall take the necessary actions, including by exercising its right of legislative initiative, to introduce

compulsory pre-school education for children who have reached the age of 4, as well as to support the payment by parents of fees under Art. 298, para. 2 of the Pre-school and School Education Act .

§ 23. The Act shall enter into force on January 1, 2020, with the exception of § 14 , 15 and 20 , which shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON PRE-SCHOOL
AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

(PROMOTED - SG, No. 82 OF 2020)

§ 15. During the 2020-2021 school year, training under Art. 115a, paras. 4 and 5 may be carried out regardless of whether an emergency epidemic situation has been declared.

§ 16. By the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, the municipalities shall create the necessary conditions for the implementation of compulsory preschool education under Art. 8, para. 1 for children aged 4 in accordance with the requirements of this Act and the by-laws for its implementation.

§ 17. Within the period under § 16, the provision of Art. 8, para. 1 shall apply to children who reach the age of 4 in the relevant calendar year, only in the settlements and municipalities that have provided the conditions for the implementation of compulsory preschool education in accordance with the requirements of the state educational standard for preschool education and the state educational standard for the physical environment and the information and library provision of kindergartens, schools and centers for support for personal development, following a decision of the relevant municipal council, in coordination with the opinion of their parents or guardians and with the possibility of maximum inclusion in compulsory preschool education of children who have reached the age of 4.

§ 18. The Council of Ministers shall adopt the ordinance under Art. 283, para. 15 within three months of the promulgation of this Act .

§ 19. Paragraph 8, item 1, letter "b" and item 4 regarding paragraphs 12, 13, 14 and 15 shall enter into force on January 1, 2021.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW AMENDMENT OF THE LAW ON CORPORATE INCOME TAXATION

Transitional and Final Provisions

(PROMISED IN SG, NO. 17 OF 2022, IN FORCE AS OF 01.01.2022)

§ 9. The Act shall enter into force on January 1, 2022, with the exception of § 3, items 1, 2, 5 - 11 and § 5 , 6 and 7 , which shall enter into force on April 1, 2022.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON SUPPORT
FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

(PROMISED IN SG, NO. 102 OF 2022, IN FORCE AS OF 01.01.2023)

§ 106. The Act shall enter into force on January 1, 2023, with the exception of Art. 33a, para. 2 , which shall enter into force on March 1, 2023.

Final provisions
TO THE LAW ON AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON PRE-
SCHOOL AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

(PROMOTED - SG, NO. 11 OF 2023)

§ 12. Paragraph 2 shall enter into force from the academic year 2024 - 2025.

Transitional and Final Provisions
TO THE LAW ON THE STATE BUDGET OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR 2025

(PROMISED IN SG, NO. 26 OF 2025, IN FORCE AS OF 01.01.2025)

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§ 41. The law shall enter into force on January 1, 2025, with the exception of:

1. paragraph 27, items 2 - 4, item 50, letters "a", "d", "g" and "sh" , § 28 and § 29 , which shall enter into force on January 1, 2024;
2. paragraph 16, items 1, 4 and 5 , § 17 , 20 , 21 , 32 and 33 , which shall enter into force three days after its promulgation in the "State Gazette";
3. paragraphs 22 - 24 and 25 , which shall enter into force on 1 April 2025;
4. paragraph 18 , which shall enter into force on 1 May 2025;
5. paragraph 9, item 1, item 2, letter "a" and item 3 , which shall enter into force on July 1, 2025;
6. paragraph 9, item 2, letters "b" and "c" , § 35 , 36 , 37 and 39 , which shall enter into force on the day of its promulgation in the "State Gazette".