

**LAW**  
**ON THE LEVEL OF SCHOOLING, THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL MINIMUM**  
**AND THE SYLLABUS**

***Chapter one***  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1.** This Law gives provisions on the state educational requirement for the level of schooling, the general educational minimum and the syllabus within the public education system.

**Article 2.** The state educational requirement referred to in Article 1 establishes the conditions and the procedure for the completion of a level of schooling and joining the next one. It also stipulates the characteristics of the general educational minimum and the syllabus.

***Chapter two***  
**LEVEL OF SCHOOLING**

**Article 3.** (1) Levels of schooling shall ensure the acquisition of the necessary volume of learning, as well as consistency in and continuity of education.

(2) The levels of schooling are of two types, primary and secondary.

(3) Primary education comprises two phases:

1. basic – over a four-year period (from form I to form IV);

2. pre-secondary - over a four-year period (from form V to form VIII);

(4) Secondary education comprises one phase – secondary, over a four-year period (from form IX to form XII).

**Article 4.** Any length of the phases other than the one stated in Article 3, Sections 3 and 4 shall be stipulated in a regulation of the Minister of Education and Science in case training is provided:

1. in a form different from day training;

2. in specialized secondary schools, in sports schools and in art schools;

3. in special schools for schoolchildren suffering from chronic diseases and with special educational needs.

**Article 5.** The completion of the respective level of schooling shall ensure the acquisition of the general educational minimum, as well as of knowledge and skills corresponding to the interests and individual aptitudes of schoolchildren.

**Article 6.** (1) The schoolchildren who have completed the first stage of primary education shall receive a form IV-leaving certificate.

(2) Primary education is acquired after the completion of the pre-secondary stage, it shall be attested with a certificate.

(3) State educational requirements referred to in Article 16, items 5 and 10 of the Public Education Act stipulate the layout of the documents referred to in Sections 1 and 2.

(4) The schoolchildren who have completed primary education are entitled to training in the next level of schooling, to vocational training, as well as to practice professions requiring the completion of primary education.

**Article 7.** (1) Secondary education is acquired when form XII is finished and three state matriculation examinations are passed – in Bulgarian grammar

and literature, in social science and civil education and in another subject depending on the syllabus.

(2) Besides the state matriculation examinations referred to in Section 1, schoolchildren shall take two state examinations for professional qualifications to the end of acquiring vocational education pursuant to the state educational requirements referred to in Article 16, item 7 of the Public Education Act.

(3) The state matriculation examinations referred to in Section 1 are compulsory, no schoolchild may be relieved of them.

(4) A schoolchild, who has successfully finished form XII without having taken the state matriculation examinations referred to in Section 1 may receive a certificate for the completion of the last form of secondary education, which shall entitle him/her to vocational training for the acquisition of professional qualifications.

(5) The organization of state matriculation examinations for the acquisition of secondary education is outlined in the state educational requirement on the grading system, while their content is outlined in the state educational requirements on the teaching content.

(6) The organization and content of state matriculation examinations for the acquisition of professional qualifications are stipulated in the Law on Vocational Education and Training.

### ***Chapter three*** **GENERAL EDUCATIONAL MINIMUM**

#### **Section I** **Objectives and content of general education**

**Article 8.** (1) General education is based on the premise that Bulgarian schools are meant to afford each Bulgarian citizen the opportunity to develop.

(2) General education is based on the principle of respecting:

1. basic human rights;
2. children's rights;
3. Bulgarian traditions in culture and education;
4. world cultural heritage;
5. the values of civil society;
6. the freedom of consciousness and the freedom of thought.

**Article 9.** The aims of general education shall be:

1. to promote the physical and spiritual development of schoolchildren, to help them receive successful social orientation, adaptation and career;
2. to provide conditions for the formation of values, creating a sense of Bulgarian national identity, a sense of respect, compassion, as well as of civil duty;
3. to provide conditions for the development of a need for, interest in and disposition for learning, as well as for continuing education and self-perfection.

**Article 10.** General education in Bulgarian schools is provided through the teaching and learning of subjects related to the following fields of culture and education:

1. Bulgarian grammar and literature;
2. Foreign languages;
3. Mathematics, Computing, Information Technology;
4. Social sciences and civil education;
5. Natural sciences and ecology;
6. Arts;
7. Culture and technology;
8. Physical education and sports.

**Article 11.** (1) The fields of culture and education shall be in compliance with the outlined aims of general education, they shall afford the opportunity to make a choice within the framework of the school's syllabus.

(2) Each field of culture and education shall ensure the interrelation between separate subjects.

## **Section II**

### **Characteristics of the general educational minimum**

**Article 12.** (1) The general educational minimum forms the basis of general education. It comprises compulsory knowledge and skills needed for the successful performance of schoolchildren in the next level of schooling.

(2) The general educational minimum is compulsory for all schools.

**Article 13.** The apportionment of school time among subjects to the end of meeting the general educational minimum by grade/form, stage and level shall be stipulated in a regulation of the Minister of Education and Science.

**Article 14.** The content of the general educational minimum established pursuant to Article 13 may be updated every four years.

## **Chapter four**

### **THE SYLLABUS**

**Article 15.** (1) The structure of the syllabus is based on three types of instruction: compulsory, compulsorily chosen and optional.

(2) Compulsory instruction shall ensure the acquisition of the general educational minimum.

(3) Compulsorily chosen instruction shall provide additional training within the framework of subjects belonging to the fields of education and culture referred to in Article 10, corresponding to the interests and individual aptitudes of schoolchildren. Compulsorily chosen instruction shall include the study of the mother tongue pursuant to Article 8, Section 2 of the Public Education Act.

(4) Optional instruction shall provide training in fields and activities suggested by the school and chosen by the schoolchildren, the former may not

belong to the fields of education and culture listed in Article 10. This type of instruction may take up to four classes a week for all grades/forms in accordance with the school's syllabus and it shall not be compulsory for the schoolchildren.

**Article 16.** (1) Compulsorily attended classes shall provide compulsory and compulsorily chosen instruction.

(2) The compulsory classes per school week may not exceed:

1. twenty two classes in forms I and II;
2. twenty five classes in forms III and IV;
3. thirty classes in form V to form VIII including;
4. thirty two classes in form IX to form XII.

(3) The ratio between compulsory and compulsorily chosen classes depends on the stage and level of schooling. Compulsory instruction:

1. in the first stage comprises 90 percent of the compulsory classes;
2. in the pre-secondary stage comprises between 80 and 90 percent of the compulsory classes;
3. in the secondary stage comprises between 45 and 80 percent of the compulsory classes;

**Article 17.** The syllabus comprises:

1. the names of the subjects coming under the headings of compulsory, compulsorily chosen and optional instruction;
2. the distribution of subjects by grade/form;
3. the annual or weekly number of classes per subject;
4. schedule of the school year.

**Article 18.** (1) Each school shall design its own syllabus following the provisions of this Law.

(2) The individual school's syllabus establishes the subjects that are part of compulsorily chosen and optional instruction and the distribution of classes by subject. It shall correspond to interests of the schoolchildren and to the capacity of the school.

(3) The school's syllabus shall be approved by a decision of the school's Pedagogical Council, it shall be endorsed by the head of the respective education inspectorate.

(4) The school's syllabuses meant for specialized groups of schoolchildren in the comprehensive secondary schools, for art schools and for sports schools shall be designed on the basis of syllabuses endorsed by the Minister of Education and Science in conjunction with the respective government departments.

**Article 19.** (1) The syllabuses of special schools shall be in conformity with the schoolchildren's health condition or social status.

(2) the syllabuses referred to in Section 1 shall be endorsed by the Minister of Education and Science.

(3) The conditions and procedure for the acquisition of primary or secondary education in special schools are established in the state educational requirement referred to in Article 16, item 8 of the Public Education Act.

**Article 20.** Each schoolchild is entitled to complete a definite stage of his/her education following the syllabus that was in force at the beginning of his/her training, at the same school.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION**

**§1.** The state budget and municipal budgets shall provide funding for compulsory, compulsorily chosen and optional instruction in state-maintained and municipal schools.

#### **TRANSITORY AND CONCLUDING PROVISIONS**

**§2.** The general educational minimum shall be binding from form IX up for the school year of 1999-2000.

**§3.** In the Public Education Act (promulgated in Durzhaven Vestnik (the State Gazette), № 86 of October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1991; amended, № 90/ 1996, Nos. 36, 124 and 153/ 1998), Article 26, Section 1, item 5 the words “from form VIII to form XII including” shall be obliterated.

**§4.** The Minister of Education and Science shall issue the regulation referred to in Article 13 within a month from the date this Law comes into force.

**§5.** The Law shall come into force from the date of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

**§6.** The Law shall be administered by the Minister of Education and Science.

The Law was adopted by the 38<sup>th</sup> National Assembly on July 14, 1999 and it was sealed with the official seal of the National Assembly.

Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly:  
Ivan Kurtev