

## PRIMARY EDUCATION UP TO 2018

Elementary secondary education is the initial stage in the child's intellectual, physical, and social development. In the elementary school, children acquire their first life experience – the ability to study and behave in specific social and natural environments.

**Duration.** In Ukraine, elementary schooling takes four years. Children who have reached the age of six by September 1 and have no contraindications against systematic study according to the results of medical and psychological examinations are eligible for elementary school.

**Educational institutions.** Children acquire an elementary education in general educational institutions of the 1<sup>st</sup> accreditation level that operate independently or as part of general educational institutions of the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> accreditation levels.

Prior to the secondary school, every child is required to acquire a basic preschool education in a pre-school educational institution, courses organized within a school, or in the family.

**Knowledge assessment.** Teachers measure the knowledge of the first-year pupils verbally in an informal manner. But starting from the next year and on, their knowledge will be measured on a 12-point scale, with marks ranging from 1 to 12 awarded.

In view of the applicable sanitary and hygienic regulations, a class hour in an elementary school takes 35 minutes in the first year, and 40 minutes in the second through four years. An elementary school operates five days a week. However, specialized schools with intensive foreign language classes for younger children may have a 6-day academic week.

The general principles of elementary education are reflected in the basic curriculum of elementary education.

**Curriculum.** Proceeding from the basic curriculum, the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine develops standard curricula for general educational institutions. In the standard curricula, the content of the fields of study is presented in the form of school subjects and courses of the invariable component. Based on the standard curricula, educational institutions prepare working curricula on an annual basis in which they concretize the variable component of elementary education, taking into account the organizational specifics of the academic process.

**Graduation.** The fourth year is the graduation year in the elementary school. It ends in state examinations to measure the educational achievements of the graduates, most often in the Ukrainian language or language of study, reading and mathematics. The content, forms, procedure, and schedule of such annual examinations are determined on an annual basis and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

The educational results of the elementary school are:

- full-fledged verbal, reading, computational skills and physical abilities;
- general view of the real world;
- sufficiently developed thinking, imagination, memory, and sensor abilities;
- creative ability;
- attitude to work, art, and health as values; and
- ability to perform simple creative tasks.