

# SCHOOL

A **school** is an [institution](#) designed for the teaching of [students](#) (or "pupils") under the direction of [teachers](#). Most countries have systems of formal [education](#), which is commonly [compulsory](#).<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> In these systems, students progress through a series of schools. The names for these schools vary by country (discussed in the *Regional* section below) but generally include [primary school](#) for young children and [secondary school](#) for teenagers who have completed primary education. An institution where [higher education](#) is taught, is commonly called a [university college](#) or [university](#).

In addition to these core schools, students in a given country may also attend schools before and after primary and secondary education. [Kindergarten](#) or [pre-school](#) provide some schooling to very young children (typically ages 3–5). [University](#), [vocational school](#), [college](#) or [seminary](#) may be available after secondary school. A school may also be dedicated to one particular field, such as a school of economics or a school of dance. [Alternative schools](#) may provide nontraditional curriculum and methods.

There are also non-government schools, called private schools. Private schools may be required when the government does not supply adequate, or special education. Other private schools can also be religious, such as [Christian schools](#), [hawzas](#), [yeshivas](#), and others; or schools that have a higher standard of education or seek to foster other personal achievements. Schools for adults include institutions of [corporate training](#), [Military education and training](#) and [business schools](#).

In [homeschooling](#) and [online schools](#), teaching and learning take place outside of a traditional school building.