

School In the USA

Education in the United States is provided in [public](#), [private](#), and [home schools](#). In 2013, about 87% of school-age children (those below [higher education](#)) attended public schools, about 10% attended private schools, and roughly (= [environ](#)) 3% were home-schooled.

By law, [education is compulsory](#) over an age range starting between five and eight and ending between ages sixteen and eighteen, depending on the state. In most schools, compulsory education is divided into three levels: [elementary school](#), [middle or junior high school](#), and [high school](#). Children are usually divided by age groups into [grades](#), ranging from [kindergarten](#) (5–6-year olds) and [first grade](#) (6-7- year olds) for the youngest children, up to [twelfth grade](#) (17–18 years old) as the final year of [high school](#).

Category		School Grade Level	Age
Preschool education		Pre-kindergarten	3-5
Compulsory education			
Elementary school		Kindergarten	5-6
		1st grade	6-7
		2nd grade	7-8
		3rd grade	8-9
		4th grade	9-10
		5th grade	10-11
	Middle school	6th grade	11-12
		7th grade	12-13
		8th grade	13-14
High school	Senior high school	Freshman/9th grade	14-15
		Sophomore/10th grade	15-16
		Junior/11th grade	16-17
		Senior/12th grade	17-18

K–12 education

Public (free) education is typically from kindergarten to grade 12 (frequently abbreviated [K–12](#)).

About half of the states encourage schools to make their students recite the [Pledge of Allegiance](#) to the flag daily.

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

It should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

School start times are computed with busing in mind. There are often three start times: for elementary, for middle/junior high school, and for high school. For example; Elementary schools can start at 7:30, middle schools/junior high school can start at 8:30, and high schools at 8:15. While elementary school start earlier, they also finish earlier, at 2:30, middle schools at 3:30 and high schools at 3:20.

Grading scale

In schools in the United States children are [assessed](#) throughout the school year by their teachers, and [report cards](#) are issued to parents at

varying intervals. Generally the scores for individual assignments and tests are recorded for each student in a grade book. Evaluations are most frequently given in the form of a letter grade on an A-F scale, whereby A is the best possible grade and F is a failing grade (most schools do not include the letter E in the assessment scale), or a numeric percentage.

A			B			C			D			F		
+		–	+		–	+		–	+		–			
100.0– 97.0	96.9– 93.0	92.9– 90.0	89.9– 87.0	86.9– 83.0	82.9– 80.0	79.9– 77.0	76.9– 73.0	72.9– 70.0	69.9– 67.0	66.9– 63.0	62.9– 60.0	59.9– 0.0		

Extracurricular activities (clubs)

A major characteristic of American schools is the high priority given to sports, clubs and activities by the community, the parents, the schools and the students themselves. Extracurricular activities for all ages can be categorized under [clubs](#), [art](#), [culture and language](#), [community](#), [leadership](#), [government](#), [media](#), [military](#), [music](#), [performing arts](#), [religion](#), [role play/fantasy](#), [speech](#), [sports](#), [technology](#), and [volunteer](#), all of which take place outside of school hours. These activities can extend to large amounts of time outside the normal school day. Student participation in [sports programs](#), [drill teams](#), [bands](#), and [spirit groups](#) can amount to hours of practices and performances. Most states have organizations that develop rules for competition between groups. Sports programs and their related games, especially [football](#) and [basketball](#), are major events for American students. High school athletic competitions often generate intense interest in the community.

In addition to sports, numerous non-athletic extracurricular activities are available in American schools, both public and private. Activities include [Quizbowl](#), [musical groups](#), [marching bands](#), [student government](#), [school newspapers](#), [science fairs](#), [debate teams](#), and [clubs focused on an academic area](#) (such as the Spanish Club).