



Education System of Latvia

Ministry of Education and Science

2008

Republic of
Latvia

Ministry of
Education and
Science





Legislation On Education

- **Constitution of the Republic of Latvia**
 - Everyone is entitled to education
 - The state provides free of charge basic education and secondary education
 - Basic education is compulsory
- **Law On Education (1998)**
 - Every resident of Latvia, irrespective of his/ her age shall be entitled to acquire or continue general basic and general secondary education in the form that suits his/ her needs: in full time or part time studies





Future objectives of education system

- increasing education quality of all stages and types of education
- providing education quality in line with the development needs of society and national economy
- facilitating the access to education for everyone within the context of lifelong learning
- strengthening the capacity of education management





Stakeholders in the provision of education services

- state
 - Center of Curriculum and Examination
 - Education State Inspection
 - Agency of Quality Evaluation of General Education
 - Center of Special Education
 - Center of Initiative of Youth
- municipalities
- non-governmental sector





Structure of education system of Latvia

- Pre-school education
- Basic education
- Secondary education
 - General secondary education
 - Vocational secondary education
- Higher education





Levels of general education

- pre-school education
 - including the acquisition of compulsory education for five- and six-year old children
- compulsory general basic education (grades 1 – 9)
- general secondary education (grades 10 – 12)





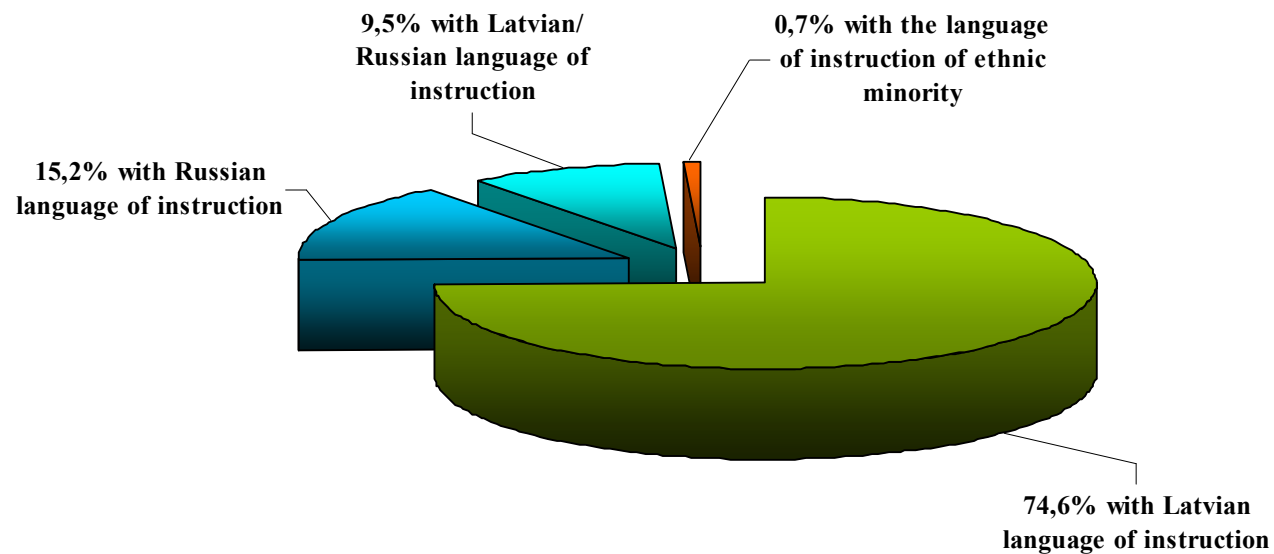
The structure of general education

Age of students	Level of education	Length and time of provision			Can be also acquired
15 (16) – 18 years of age	Secondary education	Curriculum to be acquired within 3 years			→ In vocational schools
		→ In secondary schools	→ In night (part time) secondary schools	→ In gymnasiums → In state gymnasiums	
7 (8) – 15 (16) years of age	Basic (compulsory) education	Curriculum to be acquired within 9 years			→ In secondary schools → In night (part time) schools → In boarding schools → In vocational schools → In special education institutions → In education and correctional institutions
		→ In primary schools (partial/ not completed basic education)	→ In basic schools (full basic education)		
Up to 7 (8) years of age	Pre-school education (compulsory preparation of 5 and 6 year old children for school)	Curriculum to be acquired up to the age of 7 (8)			→ In special education institutions
		→ In pre-school education institutions	→ In pre-school groups of education institutions	→ In families	





The breakdown of general education institutions (in %) as to the language of instruction in the school year of 2006/07





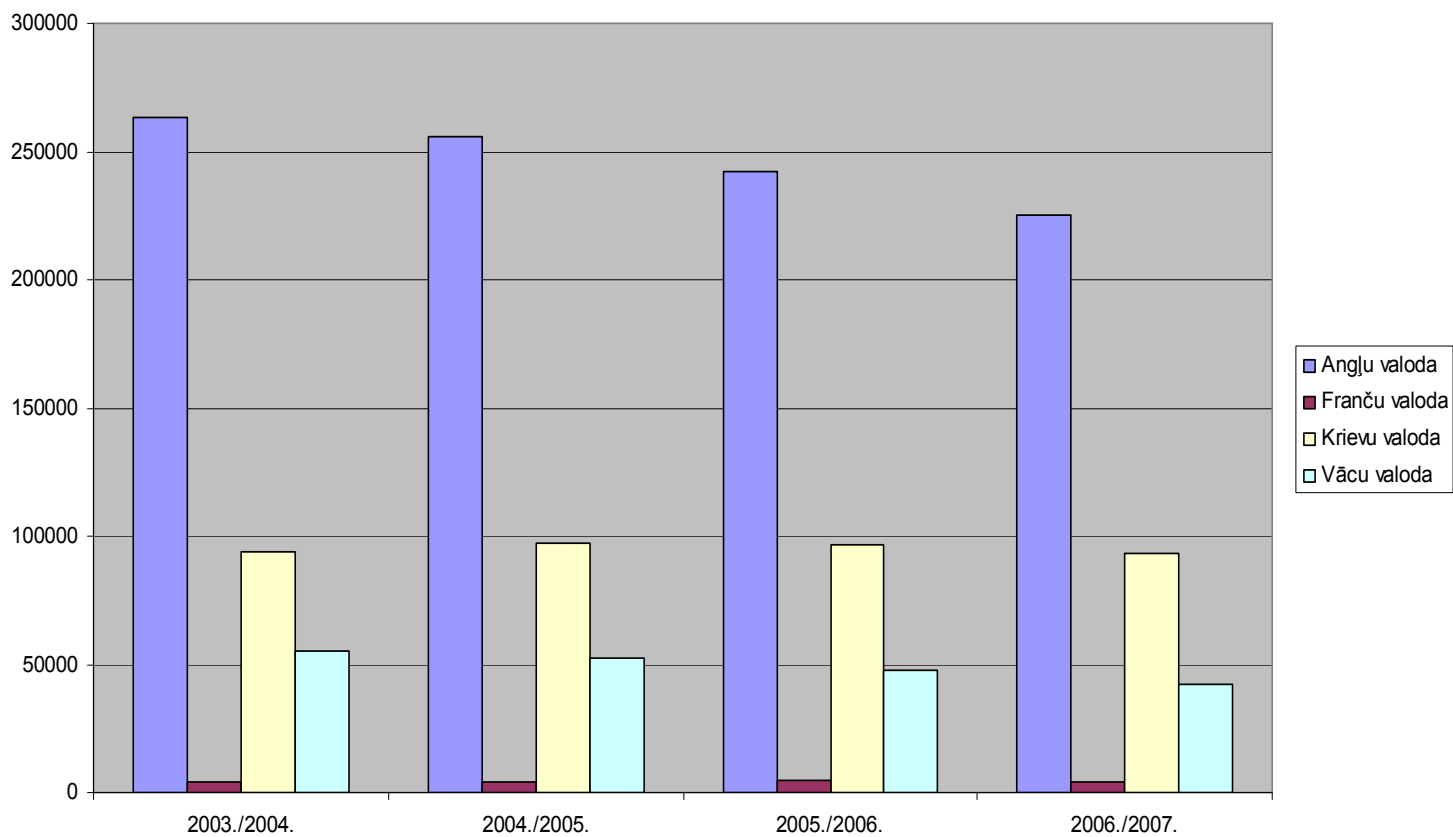
Possibilities to acquire languages

- **Basic education**
 - Latvian (1st grade)
 - 1st foreign language (3th grade)
 - 2nd foreign language (6th grade)
 - Native language of ethnic minorities
(only in the programmes of education for ethnic minorities)
- **Secondary education**
 - Possibility to acquire at least one more foreign language



Number of students acquiring English, French, Russian and German

1





Programmes of general basic education

- programmes of basic education (grade 1 – 9)
- programmes of partial basic education
 - programmes of stage 1 education (primary school)
 - programmes of stage 2 education (grades 7-9)
- programmes of education of a certain profile (for example, language programmes)
- programmes of special education
- programmes of education for ethnic minorities
- programmes of social and pedagogic correctional education





Programmes of general secondary education

- 4 educational profiles are offered at the level of general education
 - comprehensive profile
 - humanities and social profile
 - mathematics, natural sciences and engineering profile
 - vocational profile
- Compulsory and optional subjects shall be studied in all the profiles of general education
- Programmes of education shall be licensed and accredited





Assessment system of students' learning achievements

In grade 1

- a brief evaluative written or oral description of student's learning activities, style of work, communication and cooperation skills, attitudes and development of learning dynamics

In grades 2 and 3

- a 10-point assessment scale in Latvian language, Mathematics and the ethnic minority language, in other subject areas – descriptive evaluation

In grade 4

- a 10-point assessment scale in Latvian language, Mathematics, Natural Sciences and the ethnic minority language, in other subject areas – descriptive evaluation

In grades 5 – 9

- a 10-point assessment scale
- in separate subjects (Ethics, Health Education) there is the “complete/incomplete” designation





Meaning of the points in the 10-point assessment scale

Evaluation in points	Verbal meaning	Level of acquisition/ mastering
10	exceptional	high (excellent)
9	excellent	
8	very good	optimal
7	good	
6	above satisfactory	
5	satisfactory	satisfactory
4	below satisfactory	
3	unsatisfactory	weak
2	poor	
1	very poor	





Organization of education process

- school year starts September 1 and finishes at the end of May
- school year consists of two semesters
- the length of a school year
 - in grade 1 34 weeks
 - in grades 2-8 35 weeks
 - in grade 9 37 weeks (*out of them – a 2 week exam period*)

(including the development of students' individual or group projects related to the learning content)





Organization of education process

- holidays
 - 1 week in autumn
 - 2 weeks during Christmas time
 - 1 week in spring

Grade 1 has an extra week of holidays in the second semester
- the length of a lesson
 - in grades 1 – 9 40 – 45 minutes





Maximum weekly study load of a student

Grade	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Study load, in lessons	22	23	24	26	28	30	32	34	34





**Thank you for
attention!**

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