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School system in the USA

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the USA there is not a national system of education. Each of the 50 states has its own laws regulating education. Children begin school at the age of 5 or 6 and continue until the age of 18. Every child gets minimum 13 years of education free of charge. Primary or grade school is from the 1st to 6th grades. Then students attend middle school (also called junior high school) for three years. After middle school, students attend secondary schools, which are called "high schools". The goal of secondary school is to get a high school diploma. Students should take on average 17 or over 20 units during their studies. Marks in most US schools are A, B, C, D, and F with an A being excellent and an F being failure. In America, the word grade has two meanings: (1) the score achieved on an exam or in a course, and (2) a year of education in primary or secondary school. During the final year of high school, most students take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) which is a national college entrance examination. The results of this test will determine if the student should continue on to attend a college or university and it is used by universities to decide which students to accept. Many international students choose to study at one of the many top USA boarding schools. Foreign students who would like to attend an American college or university must have completed coursework that is equivalent to what is taught at an American high school. Foreign students who would like to attend an American high school, need to consider how the high school they select will give them [access to the best colleges](#). You can also learn about some of the finest [girls boarding schools](#) and [boys boarding schools](#) in the American education system.

2.0 SCHOOLS

2.1 Primary school

American children start school at the age of five years. The first year at school is called kindergarten. It is required of all American children enrolled in the American education system. The second year at school is considered the first year of primary school and is referred to as first grade. Primary school most commonly consists of five years of education.



2.2 Secondary school

When they complete fifth grade (the last year of primary school), they advance to secondary school. Secondary school most commonly consists of a total of seven years. The ninth through twelfth grades are most commonly referred to as [high school](#). When they complete twelfth grade, American students are awarded a certificate called the high school diploma. In the American education system, students must have obtained a high school diploma before they are admitted into college or university.



2.3 Undergraduate school

Students who have completed high school and would like to attend college or university must attend what is referred to as an undergraduate school. These are schools that offer either a two-year degree (called an [associate degree](#)) or a four-year degree (called a [bachelors degree](#)) in a specific course of study. That course of study is called the major. While most schools that offer a four-year degree will admit students who have not yet chosen a major, all students are required to select (or declare) a major by their second year at school. Students who complete an associate degree can continue their education at a four-year school and eventually complete a [bachelor degree](#).



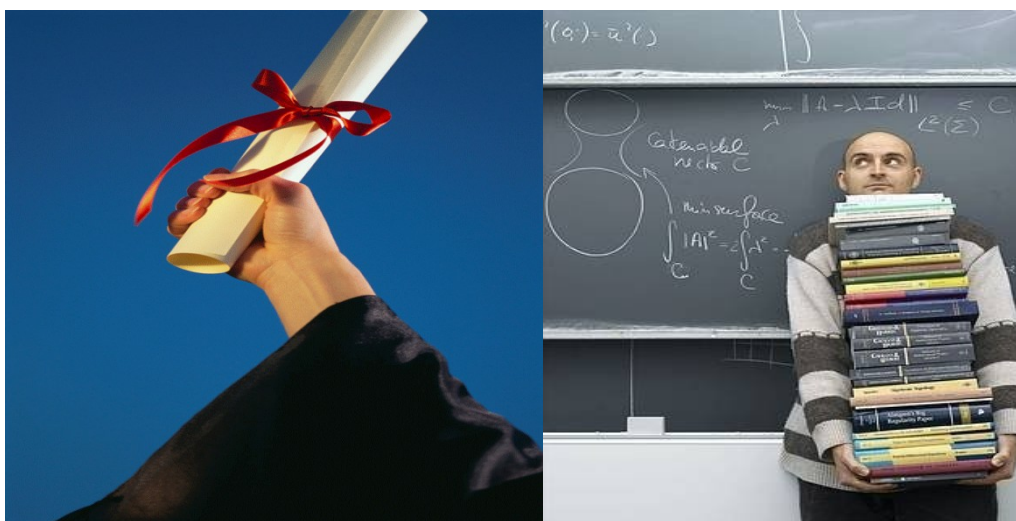
2.4 Graduate school

Students who have obtained a bachelor's degree can continue their education by pursuing one of two types of degrees. The first is a [master's degree](#). This is usually a two-year degree that is highly specialized in a specific field. Students are sometimes admitted to a master's degree program only if they have a bachelor's degree in a closely related field. However, there are many exceptions to this, such as with students who want to pursue a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree. Students who want to advance their education even further in a specific field can pursue a doctorate degree, also called a [PhD](#). A PhD degree can take between three and six years to complete, depending on the course of study chosen, the ability of the student, and the thesis that the student has selected. The thesis is a very intensive research paper that must be completed prior to earning the degree. It is always required of

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students pursuing a PhD, and may sometimes be required of students pursuing a master's degree (depending on the school).

Certain courses of study are only available at the graduate school level in America. The most notable of these are law, dentistry, and medicine. Students who want to pursue a degree in one of these fields must first obtain a bachelor's degree.



3.0 PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The coursework will also vary depends on whether the USA high school is public or private. US public high schools are operated by the government and are financed by public funds. These high schools are free to all students, even foreigners. The quality of education can vary greatly between different public USA high schools, primarily because of differences in the amount of funding that different high schools receive. Private US high schools are operated by private individuals and are financed by private funds. These private high schools are not controlled by any government agency, but their students must still meet the minimum graduation requirements set by the state. All private high school students must pay tuition, regardless of their nationality. Private USA high schools are popular because they offer options that are not available at public high schools. They include advanced math and science courses, a broader selection of foreign languages, and better art, music and athletic programs.

4.0 CONCLUSION

I think the USA high school system is unlike that of many other countries. There is little national standardization in the typical USA high school (or secondary school) curriculum. Individual states have great control over what coursework is taught in the USA high schools within their borders, as well as in the requirements that students must meet in order to graduate with a US high school diploma. Therefore, what courses and subjects are offered at US high schools will vary depending on where the high school is located. It's a lot of work for students who are interested in attending a USA high school first to familiarize themselves with the American school system. After getting to know the USA school system, you will need to determine which US high schools will provide the best educational experience for you. Therefore, the most important consideration is: how will the USA high school I have selected give me [access to the best colleges?](#)

I think if this system would become ours, it would be very hard for us to get used to it. It's quite different and the diplomas and titles of education are not like ours at all. We graduate from college, they first graduate from high school. But their system is better in the way that allows them to consider their further life a lot later than ours. We basically have to decide our future in primary school (at 5th grade practically). If we don't have enough points in last four years it's almost over. You can't choose the right school, because you don't get accepted. In their system, they decide with major what will they do with their lives.

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5.0 LITERATURE

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_the_United_States

<http://www.usastudyguide.com/usaeducationsystem.htm>

<http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/usa.htm>