



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - TOGO

<p>In Brief</p>	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>Togo Population: 8.0 million Togo Size: 56,785 sq km/21,925 sq mi</p> <p>National Curriculum: Yes 6+4+3</p> <p>Literacy: 63.7% Youth Literacy: 84.3% Female Youth Literacy: 78.4%</p> <p>Years of Public School: 13 Primary: 6 Secondary: 7</p> <p>Language of Instruction: French</p> <p>High School Leaving Exams: Yes Date of Exams: French Baccalaureat (Part II): June 18-June 23, 2018</p>
<p>School System</p>	<p>French Colonial Influence: Progressive Leaving Exams</p> <p>The structure and functioning of the Togolese educational system remains almost unchanged from the school model inherited from the colonial French. The current Togolese school system is organized by the education reform of 1975. Thus the levels and types of formal education are still the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary education which includes pre-primary for children entering at the age of three years, for a period of two years. Pre-primary education is not compulsory. Children enter primary school at the age of five for a period of six years. The certificate of graduation from primary education (CEPD) marks the end of primary school and provides access to middle school. • Junior secondary education (middle school) is four years. The certificate of graduation from junior secondary (BEPC) marks the end of this segment and allows students to access high school. • Senior secondary education (high school) runs three years for admitted students. At the end of the second year, students sit for an examination called the School-Leaving Certificate, part 1 (BAC1 or “Probatoire” in French). This certificate is required to access the terminal class (grade 12 in US system). This class concludes with the School-Leaving

	<p>Certificate, part 2 (BAC2=French Bacalaureate), which will allow access to university education.</p> <p>The junior secondary and senior secondary education have two major streams: general or technical/ vocational education. Primary and secondary education each have three terms totalling 40 weeks of teaching activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutes of higher education admit students of senior secondary education who passed the School-Leaving Certificate, part 2. This level of education includes studies in universities, specialized institutes of the government, and university education abroad. The studies vary between three and eight years. In higher education (university education), the academic year is divided into two semesters of 16 weeks each. <p>Budgetary restrictions have led to increased dropouts in technical and vocational education. The training of primary and secondary teachers is often managed by actors of higher education. In addition to the ministries of education and training, many government departments organize the training of their future employees.</p> <p>Education Administration</p> <p>In Togo, education is administered by three ministries: The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and Literacy, the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, and the Ministry of Higher Education.</p> <p>Togo's educational system is overseen by six regional directorates. Their responsibility is to manage primary and secondary education at the regional level. The regional directorates are decentralized structures and responsible for all matters relating to national education and research. They have authority over establishments of all kinds and all degrees, over the inspectors and all other structures dependent on Togo's Department of Education and Research. Some regional education centers are responsible for supervision of teachers from the three levels. Each district educational inspector supervises administrative issues and teacher examinations. The school director is the liaison between the inspector and the school, and carries great authority as to the level of supervision and educational control. The regional directorates give reports of their work to their respective ministries.</p> <p>Free Access to Primary School</p> <p>The abolition of school fees in the primary schools in 2008 was a welcome development in the country, especially for parents and children who used to pay at least US\$4 per year per child for school fees, which had impeded the goal of education for all. The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) has partnered with the national government and local agencies to ensure free access by children to free and quality education at the primary level as it continues to provide financial and technical support. To benefit every child in Togo, UNICEF also financed a study on the impact of the abolition of school fees, with results and recommendations that can be used to help the government implement a program of reforms for basic education in the country.</p>
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>Fundamental Factors Limiting Progress</p> <p>While the Togolese government has put into place measures to improve the education system there are numerous issues that have slowed their implementation. These issues are social, financial and political in nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high poverty level in Togo is one of the fundamental factors that have affected the success of the global goal of "Education for All" (EFA). Free primary education has over the years increased the number of children going to school. However, there is a significant drop in completion and enrollment levels in high schools. The same goes for the number of students who successfully transition from high school to university. The reason for this significant drop is that the government is able to fund only a small portion

	<p>of high school and university tuition fees. The rest is left for school management to find avenues to run the school, for instance, by requesting parents of the students to contribute money that proves to be unaffordable for most of them.</p> <p>Additionally, in drought-stricken areas response to hunger through ad-hoc food relief is often costly for the government to deliver and leaves little to no flexibility in terms of extending aid beyond food consumption. Even with the growth of the education system in Togo, there are major disparities in resources allocated to the schools. For one, the high teacher-to-student ratio significantly affects the performance of both the teacher and the student, especially in primary and secondary schools. Most teachers tend to lose morale due to the overwhelming number of children in classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor access to technological learning aids like laptops and e-books is pervasive due to lack of both electricity and internet connectivity. • Gender disparity also plays a role in access to education in Togo. Girls in most marginalized areas of the country may be forced to leave school due to early marriage. Some communities view girls as a source of “income” and others are married off due to the patriarchal values that govern their communities. Cases of female genital mutilation go in tandem with the early marriages. Even with efforts from the government and non-profit organizations, this issue still stymies the system.
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education releases the academic calendar for high schools annually. It is mainly limited to the institutions that follow the national curriculum. A typical public high school has three terms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First term: September to December—14 weeks, two-week break (Christmas) 2. Second term; January to March—14 weeks , one-week break (Easter) 3. Third term: April to June — 12 weeks.
<p>IELTS/TOEFL/SAT</p>	<p>Since the language of instruction in Togo is French, these tests are required for Togolese students applying to the US or UK. Some US universities and other countries, however, require a proficiency certificate of the language of instruction.</p> <p>SAT and TOEFL are the most popular exams whereas IELTS is rarely taken and does not have a test center in Togo.</p> <p>The TOEFL centers found in Togo: English Language Center (PBT) and ESAG NDE (iBT).</p> <p>Testing: SAT, TOEFL and GRE are offered in the main city Lomé. The tests are in paper and internet based: It is very challenging for francophone students to meet test scores requirements. Still, they adjust quickly to the US system and perform well in their programs.</p>
<p>Best Time to Visit Schools</p>	<p>January, February, March and April except during the Easter holiday.</p>

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References

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