



EDUCATION FACT SHEET-ETHIOPIA

In Brief	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>Ethiopia Population: 102,403,196 (2016 estimate) Ethiopia Size: 1,104,300 km²(426,400 sq mi)</p> <p>National Curriculum: Yes</p> <p>Literacy: 49.1% (57.2% male and 41.1% female) (2015) Youth Literacy: 54.98 (2007) Female Youth Literacy: 47.07 (2007)</p> <p>Years of Public School: 12 Primary: 8 years, starting age 7 Secondary: 4 years</p> <p>Language of Instruction: English & Amharic</p> <p>Higher Education: 9,322,163 Universities, colleges and institutions: 156</p> <p>High School Leaving Exams: Yes Date of Exams: June-July Number Taking Exam: 573, 920</p>
Education Overview	<p>General Educational Structure</p> <p>There is some pre-primary education for children aged 4 to 6 with an increase in recent years, mainly in Addis Ababa. Primary education is grades 1-8.</p> <p>Primary School Certificate exam: taken at the end of grade 8.</p> <p>The Ethiopian General Secondary Education Certificate exam: taken at the end of grade 10.</p> <p>The Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Examination: taken at the end of grade 12. Students passing the EHEEE are eligible for university if their scores</p>

are high enough. Students leaving at the end of grade 10 can go to technical and vocational education training (TVET) institutions or college of teacher training.

Subsidized Primary and Secondary Education

There is some subsidized primary and secondary education provided through government schools. Where school fees are reduced to nothing, however, other costs are not subsidized. Between 2008/09 and 2012/13, the number of primary schools increased from 25,212 to 30,534. Similarly, the number of secondary schools increased from 1,197 to 1,912 in 2013. However, due to the lower number of secondary schools available, many children who complete primary schools, can't attend secondary schools.

New Education Road Map

In 2018 there was a consensus to make major alterations to the education system in the country. The proposal consists of introducing an examination at grade 4 and then a regional examination at grade 8 and national examination at grade 12. These changes are still being processed and can only be proven if they are applied in reality.

Scholars Abroad

The number of Ethiopian students seeking higher education has increased over the years, with students' increased knowledge of colleges/universities abroad and increase access to internet. There is not, however, an accurate report on the number of students attending higher education abroad. The increased interest in studying abroad is strongest in urban areas of the country.

- **Education Expenditure**

5.5% of GDP, 28th globally

- **Teacher: Pupil Ratio, Primary School**

1:55.7 (2011)

- **Teacher: Pupil Ratio, Secondary School**

1:40.35 (2009)

- **Languages**

Amharic (working language). Other major regional working languages include Oromiffa, Tigrigna, Somali.

School System

National Curriculum

The first cycle of primary education concentrates on functional literacy while the second cycle is preparation for secondary education. In principle, the curriculum aims to link theory with practice in real life and to use a problem-solving approach. Primary education includes: Languages (mother tongue, Amharic), English, Mathematics, Environmental science, Natural science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology in grades 7 and 8), Social Science (grades 5 to 8) and Aesthetic Education. Secondary school (grades 9 to 10) continues subjects taken in primary school: English and a national language, Mathematics, Natural Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), Social Sciences (Civic Education, Geography and History) and Physical Education.

In the secondary school second cycle students must choose between Social Science and Natural Science streams. Common subjects in the two streams are English, Mathematics, Civic Education, Information Technology, a national language and Physical Education. The students in the Social Science stream take Economics, General Business, History and Geography, while those in Natural Science take Physics Chemistry, Biology and Technical Drawing in addition to the common subjects.

The National Curriculum is an exam-based educational system, where students take different exams at grade 8, 10 and 12. Those who do not meet the passing grade can attend vocational schools.

Cost of Schools

- Most primary and secondary government schools subsidize school fees
- Most primary and secondary private school have increasing school fees with an estimation of \$400 annual payment
- There are some International schools that provide International curriculums such as the IB and A levels. They are geared towards foreign national and Ethiopian diaspora. The cost ranges from \$3000-\$26,000
- All government universities have what is called cost sharing, where the government pays for the university fees and the students within a year of graduating have to pay 15% of the cost of tuition back to the government.

High School Leaving Exam

Keep in mind the gender disparity, where fewer girls attend high school than boys.

There are different passing points based on gender, disability and farmers for the Natural Science entrance points. (2017)

- Regular and evening male students- > or = 352
- Regular and evening female students- > or = 330
- Hard of hearing male- > or = 275 female same
- Private exam takes male students - > or = 360 female students > or = 355
- Farmers male students > or = 320 female students > or = 305

Social Science entrance points

- Regular and evening male students- > or = 335

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular and evening female students- > or = 320 • Hard of hearing male- > or = 275 female same • Private exam takes male students - > or = 360 female students > or = 355 • Farmers male students > or = 315; female students > or = 300 <p>Even with the different passing points, there is still a disparity with the number of students who graduate high school and are able to attend universities/colleges in the country. With only 8.12% graduating from tertiary education, males (10.93%) outnumber females (5.26%). (2014)</p> <p>Higher Education</p> <p>In the last five years, the Ethiopian government has prompted the expansion of higher learning institutions in order to facilitate the increasing number of students finishing high school. By 2012, 34 public universities were recorded and there were 64 accredited non-government universities or colleges awarding degrees. The intake for both science and technology, and social and humanities sciences for government universities was 67.33% in 2013.</p> <p>Public universities with few exceptions are under resourced and do not provide quality and healthy living circumstances for students. Most university students are crammed into one room with several beds and provided with limited resources to excel in their academics. Moreover, with continuous ethnic conflict around the country, classes are often disrupted for weeks at a time and students are forced to return to their respective homes. Most families who can afford to pay for private colleges and universities, in fear of their students' education being disrupted, send their children to these institutions.</p> <p>Furthermore, with sexual assault and abuse sometimes coming from their professors and peers alike, gender-based violence targets women and often cuts short their education.</p>
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>Language Switch after Grade 7</p> <p>Ethiopia's system of language of instruction can be counterproductive. All schools are required to conduct their classes with their regional language from grade 1-6. However, there is a sudden switch to English from grade 7 to 8 and continues through high school. As a result, a large percentage of students do not pass the grade 8 regional examination due to the English language inefficiency.</p> <p>School Locations Don't Match Population Distribution</p> <p>Eighty percent of Ethiopia's general population lives in rural areas but students there have limited access to schools. Most rural students at a complete disadvantage compared to their peers who live in urban areas. Rural students often need to travel very long distances to attend primary or secondary schools. Fewer teachers are available in rural areas, worsening the teacher to student ratio.</p>

	<p>Poverty, Societal Expectations for Children</p> <p>The economically disadvantaged society that is largely present in the country brings in other related issues such as seeing children as assets, poor family planning and backward societal expectations. Poverty leads to families having many children with a few attending school and most doing labour intensive jobs to economically support the family. Moreover, the lack of education in their family also leads to girls being sent overseas or to the city for cheap labour, with most never returning and those who do are in a casket or experience serious mental issues. Backward societal expectations lead to early child marriages, abduction of girls for marriage and the disregard of girls to attend higher education, as it is deemed unnecessary.</p> <p>Corruption</p> <p>There is increased corruption within private colleges, where the institutions bribe their way to get accredited by the government. The reality is that some private colleges are under resourced, do not have qualified teachers and in rare cases do not provide their graduates with certification as they suddenly close or go out of business.</p> <p>Shortage of Testing Sites</p> <p>The shortage of ACT/SAT/TOEFL/IELTS sites makes registration difficult for students that don't have access to internet for payment methods.</p>
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>With the new year rolling in by September, most schools start their academic year at that time. The general academic year runs from September to end of June. Students take the national high school leaving examination in June and July.</p> <p>Some schools are now starting to organize summer school for their students.</p>
<p>SAT Test Centers</p>	<p>International Community School, Addis Ababa Bingham Academy, Addis Ababa</p> <p>(Addis Ababa University was one of the testing sites, however, it was cancelled in 2018).</p>
<p>ACT Test Centers</p>	<p>Infinity Advanced Technology Solutions, Addis Ababa International Community School, Addis Ababa Symbol Technologies, Addis Ababa</p>
<p>IELTS/TOEFL</p>	<p>IELTS and TOFEL are required for Ethiopian students wishing to attend university/college abroad. The British Counsel in Addis Ababa administers these tests.</p>

<p>Best Time to Visit Schools</p>	<p>Best time to visit high schools is during their second term that runs March-August. The schools are open more and students have more time to consider their options before they take the national exam. This is also a good time to visit some access organizations since that's when they start preparing their students to apply. Others operate on a June-November schedule.</p>
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