

<p>In Brief</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>Somaliland Population: 4 million Somaliland Size: 137,600 sq km/53,128 sq mi</p> <p>School Attendance - Primary: 51% (2011 UNICEF estimate) School Attendance - Secondary: 20% (2011 UNICEF estimate)</p> <p>Years of Public School: Primary: 8 Secondary: 4</p> <p>Language of Instruction: Somali or Arabic</p> <p>High School Leaving Exams: Yes Date of Exams: May-June</p>
<p>Education Overview</p>	<p>A Broken System</p> <p>By nearly every indicator, Somaliland’s education system is broken from the primary to tertiary level. Despite a nominally English curriculum, classes are taught in Somali or Arabic. Students graduating from many secondary schools are unable to form simple sentences in English and knowing some math but only through rote memorization.</p> <p>Students who grow up in rural areas normally are only educated at religious schools in Somali and Arabic, covering the Holy Quran and mathematics.</p> <p>Teacher absenteeism is high, wages are low (or nothing, in some cases), and fewer than 50% of teachers have a diploma at all.</p> <p>Less than half of schools in Somaliland have drinkable water. In both English and Math, there are about 15 students for each usable secondary textbook.</p> <p>Continuing Education Abroad</p> <p>A very small number of students continue their education outside of Somaliland. A handful of scholarships are available in Turkey, Malaysia, China, Uganda, and Kenya but there are often given out based on clan ties or connections to those in power.</p> <p>Over the past decade, approximately 80 students have matriculated to US colleges and universities. Virtually every one of them has come from the Abaarso School of Science and Technology, a boarding school outside of Hargeisa and a HALI Access Network member.</p>

	<p>Key Indicators: % of students with access to upper primary education: 36.8% Secondary School Net Enrolment Rate: 10.5% (boys 11.6%, girls 9%) Primary school teacher to pupil ratio: 1:31 Secondary school teacher to pupil ratio: 1:26.6 Primary school classroom to pupil ratio: 1:52.7 Secondary school classroom to pupil ratio: 1:55</p> <p>Note on Data: Data on Somaliland education is extremely difficult to find, for a number of reasons. First, Somaliland's education system is among the worst in the world, and its government lacks capacity and resources to track performance.</p>
Academic Calendar	Somaliland schools operate on a Northern hemisphere calendar, beginning classes in August or September and ending in May or June. The school year does not start for most schools until the national exam results are finalized, which can take 3-4 months as this is done entirely by hand. Even during the school year, classes can be inconsistent, with frequent and long breaks for religious holidays. Days at most schools are short - students arrive around 8 am and leave school for the day around 11:45am.
SAT Test Centers	Abaarso School of Science and Technology was approved for a pilot test in June 2020. It will be the only official SAT test center in Somaliland for 2020-21.
ACT Test Centers	Abaarso School of Science and Technology is the only official ACT test center in Somaliland.
IELTS/TOEFL	No testing centers are available in the country. Because of the difficulty accessing the TOEFL and IELTS, colleges and universities are required to waive this requirement or seek other ways of demonstrating English proficiency. We currently use the Duolingo English Test for English proficiency requirements.
Best Time to Visit Schools	Anytime during the school year, which operates on a Northern hemisphere calendar. Visitors should not come during Ramadan or Eid, which is a holiday that changes dates each year.
HALI Contacts	Abaarso School of Science and Technology Email: info@abaarsoschool.org Phone: +252 063 423 4771

Source:

Somaliland Ministry of Education Sector Strategic Plan - October 2017 (UNICEF)

<https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/planipolis/files/ressources/somaliland-esp-2017-2021.pdf>