



## EDUCATION FACT SHEET - NIGERIA

<b>Country in Brief</b>	<p><b>Nigerian Population:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 213.4 million (2021)</li> </ul> <p><b>Nigerian Size:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 923,768 sq km/ 356,669 sq mi</li> </ul> <p><b>Student Attendance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Primary - 31 million (2019/2020 National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria)</li> <li>● Secondary - 12 million (2019/2020 National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria)</li> </ul> <p><b>Literacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General overview 62% (2018)</li> <li>● Youth Literacy: 75% (2018)</li> <li>● Female Youth Literacy: 68% (2018)</li> </ul> <p><b>Years of Public School: 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Primary: 6</li> <li>● Junior Secondary: 3</li> <li>● Senior Secondary: 3</li> </ul> <p><b>High School Leaving Exams:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● West African Examination Council (WAEC)</li> <li>● National Examinations Council (NECO)</li> </ul> <p><b>Exams Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● WAEC: May - June</li> <li>● NECO: July - August</li> </ul> <p>Language of Instruction - English Dropout Rate: 16.9% (2021)</p>
<b>Education Overview</b>	<p><b>History of the Nigerian Education System.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Methodist missionaries initiated the first primary school in Nigeria in 1843, marking the introduction of formal education in the country. Just a few years later, in 1854, Christian missionaries established the CMS Grammar School in Lagos, which became Nigeria's first secondary school.</li> <li>● When Lord Lugard amalgamated Nigeria's northern and southern regions in 1914, nationwide demand for schools increased.</li> <li>● The rapid growth of the education sector culminated in the establishment of the University of Ibadan in 1948, Nigeria's first university.</li> <li>● Individuals and private groups also took the initiative to establish</li> </ul>

private schools and public institutions. The educational sector in Nigeria comprises both government and private schools, spanning all levels of education.

#### **Nigerian Education Statistics.**

- According to statistics, 7.2 million children are enrolled in early childhood education programs in Nigeria. In contrast, 22.2 million children above six years are enrolled in public primary schools, and 5.5 million children are registered in private primary schools.
- For secondary school enrollment, the rate for junior secondary school is 54.4%, while for senior secondary school, it's 68.6%.
- A 2017 university census revealed that the total number of undergraduate students was 1.7 million, while the number of postgraduate students (those pursuing either a master's or doctorate) was 234,000.
- In the 2018/2019 academic year, women accounted for 38% of students pursuing master's degrees. Similarly, female students among undergraduate university students totaled around 44%.
- In 2021, there were 170 universities in Nigeria. Of these, 79 were private, 43 were federal, and 48 were state universities.
- According to Vanguard Media and based on a report by Invictus Africa, the budget allocated to education in Nigeria in 2022 was 5.39%. This marked a 50% reduction from the 2015 allocation, which was 10.79%.

#### **The Educational Policy In Nigeria.**

- The national policy on education comprises legislative guidelines from the federal government that establish standards, procedures, and implementation plans to ensure educational development and the delivery of quality education in Nigeria.
- The first national policy on education was published in 1977 but has since been revised multiple times by various stakeholders within the Federal Ministry of Education due to evolving changes in educational delivery.
- Both government entities and private stakeholders, such as non-governmental organizations and individuals, manage educational facilities following the provisions of the national policy on education. The Federal Ministry of Education regulates both public and private educational institutions.
- Nigeria's education system operates at three government levels: Federal, State, and Local. The federal and state governments oversee public tertiary and secondary-level institutions, while local governments are responsible for public pre-primary and primary-level institutions.
- In 2008, the federal government introduced a 9-year basic education curriculum aimed at achieving the goals of the universal basic education program. As a result, the Nigerian educational system now follows the 9-3-4 structure, which

	<p>includes one year of pre-primary education, nine years of basic education, three years of senior secondary education, and four years of tertiary education. Tertiary education encompasses universities, polytechnics, and educational colleges.</p>
<p><b>School System</b></p>	<p><b>The Nigerian formal educational structure is divided into</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9 years of Basic education</li> <li>● 3 years of Senior secondary school education</li> <li>● 4 years of Tertiary education</li> </ul> <p><b>Basic Education.</b></p> <p>The 2014 National Policy on Education specifies that basic education encompasses early child care and development education (including creches and daycare), pre-primary education, and primary and junior secondary education. Basic education offers formal training to children between 0 and 15 years old.</p> <p>The age group distribution for each sub-level of basic education is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Early child care and development education: 0-4 years</li> <li>● Pre-primary education (1-year duration): 5-year-olds</li> <li>● Primary education: 6-12 years</li> <li>● Junior secondary education: 12-15 years</li> </ul> <p>While English serves as the official language of instruction in basic education, educators may opt to teach in indigenous languages based on the location. For instance, schools in a particular geopolitical zone of Nigeria may instruct primary school students in local languages like Hausa, Igbo, or Yoruba. These schools use the guidelines provided by the National Policy on Education to determine the curriculum and subjects to be taught.</p> <p>Upon completing Grade 9, students are awarded the Basic Education Certificate (BEC). To pass the Basic Education Certificate Examination, students must achieve passing grades in six subjects, including English and mathematics.</p> <p>Here's an explanation of the grading system typically used in Nigerian primary and secondary schools for promotion to the next class, using 50% as the standard pass grade:</p> <p><b>Letter Grades:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A: Excellent (70-100%)</li> <li>● B: Very Good (60-69%)</li> <li>● C: Good (50-59%)</li> <li>● D: Fair (40-49%)</li> <li>● E: Poor (0-39%)</li> <li>● F: Fail (Below 40%)</li> </ul>

### **Senior Secondary School Education**

The current curriculum not only provides formal education but also equips students with vocational skills. Vocational training empowers senior secondary school students with hair styling, crafting, and fashion design skills.

The formal education curriculum encompasses core subjects like mathematics, English, civic studies, and entrepreneurship. These subjects are taught across various fields of study, including science, arts, technology, and business.

For senior secondary school students to progress to the tertiary level of education, senior secondary school students must pass the senior school certificate examination, administered by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) and the National Examination Council (NECO).

WAEC exams are typically conducted in May each year, and only senior secondary school students in the final year are eligible to sit for these exams. Successful students receive a senior school leaving certificate upon completing their senior secondary education.

To gain admission to a Nigerian university, students must pass the WAEC or NECO exams and the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Exam (UTME).

The pass grade for WAEC is C6, with five credits in relevant subjects, including Mathematics and English Language, which are compulsory. Students are required to retake the entire exam if they do not meet the standard requirements.

### **West African Senior School Certificate (WASSCE) Grade System**

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Grade Description</b>	<b>US/EU Equivalent</b>
A1	1.00 - 1.99	Excellent	A+
B2	2.00 - 2.99	Very Good	A
B3	3.00 - 3.99	Good	B
C4	4.00 - 4.99	Credit	B
C5	5.00 - 5.99	Credit	C
C6	6.00 - 6.99	Credit	C
D7	7.00 - 7.99	Pass	D
E8	8.00 - 8.99	Pass	D
F9	9.00	Fail	F

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The joint admissions and matriculations board prepares the UTME as a uniform admission test for all eligible senior secondary students, regardless of location.

However, in 2016, because of some irregularities in the conduct of the

UTME, some universities now conduct their internal exams to screen students further before admission. The pass score/ cutoff mark for applying for any Tertiary institution in Nigeria is 180.

<u>Range of UTME Scores</u>	<u>Marks</u>
● 400-381	60
● 378-380	59
● 296-300	43
● 246-250	33
● 196-200	23
● 191-195	22
● 186-190	21
● 180-185	20

Other required Credentials:

1. Primary School Leaving Certificate
2. Basic Education Certificate (BEC)
3. Senior Secondary Certificate (SSC)

### **Tertiary Education**

Nigerian tertiary education encompasses universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education. The governing body responsible for regulating accredited universities in Nigeria is the National University Commission.

University curricula are designed to equip graduates to contribute to national development and foster entrepreneurship, creating employment opportunities. Entrepreneurs play a crucial role in economic growth by generating jobs and reducing unemployment and associated youth-related issues, including crime rates.

Colleges of education serve as training centers for aspiring educators, preparing students for the teaching profession and cultivating their competence to become effective teachers in society.

Polytechnics offer specialized technical training and skill acquisition, enabling students to contribute to Nigeria's industrial and economic development.

In Nigerian universities, the commonly used grading system is the 5-point scale. This system assesses students' performance in individual courses or modules throughout their academic programs. These grades are typically recorded on transcripts and contribute to calculating the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) or Grade Point Average (GPA). The CGPA or GPA reflects a student's overall academic performance and often determines academic standings, honors, and eligibility for graduation. It's important to note that grading systems may vary between universities and specific programs of study.

**Here is a general explanation of the 5-point grading system:**

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Scale 2</b>	<b>US/EU Grade Equivalent</b>
A	70.00 - 100.00	5.00	A
B	60.00 - 69.00	4.00	AB
C	50.00 - 59.00	3.00	B
D	45.00 - 49.00	2.00	BC
E	40.00 - 44.00	1.00	C
F	0.00 - 39.00	0.00	F

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**Scholarship Opportunities.**

Numerous scholarship opportunities are available for Nigerian students, and a selection of them is listed below:

- Federal Government Scholarship Awards: Offered by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education, these scholarships support Nigerian students at various educational levels.
- State Government Scholarships: Many Nigerian states provide scholarships to assist local students in their educational pursuits.
- Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan: This program offers Nigerian students the chance to study in other Commonwealth countries.
- PTDF Overseas Scholarship Scheme: Administered by the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), this scholarship supports Nigerian students pursuing postgraduate studies in oil and gas-related fields.
- Nigerian LNG (NLNG) Scholarships: Offered by Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited, these scholarships cater to undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Nigeria and abroad.
- NNPC/Total Scholarship: Provided by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and Total Upstream Companies in Nigeria, this scholarship aids undergraduate and postgraduate students in specific disciplines.
- Agbami Scholarship: Offered by the Agbami Co-venturers, including Chevron, Star Deepwater Petroleum Limited, Famfa Oil Limited, and Petrobras, this scholarship is designed for Nigerian undergraduate students studying specific science and engineering courses.
- WAAW Foundation Scholarship: This scholarship is tailored for undergraduate female students pursuing STEM-related fields.
- Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Program: The program offers funding and mentorship to aspiring entrepreneurs across Africa, including Nigeria.
- MTN Foundation Scholarships: Provided by MTN Nigeria Foundation, these scholarships support students across various fields of study.
- Jim Ovia Foundation Scholarship: Offered by the Jim Ovia Foundation, this scholarship assists high-achieving Nigerian

	<p>students throughout their tertiary education.</p> <p>It's important to note that many Nigerian universities and colleges also provide scholarships and financial aid programs. These scholarships may be based on merit or financial need, and students are encouraged to inquire with their chosen institutions regarding available opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Issues with the Education System</b></p>	<p>The education system in Nigeria faces several emerging issues that need attention and improvement. Some of these issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate infrastructure:</b> Many schools in Nigeria lack proper infrastructure, such as classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other facilities, which hampers the quality of education.</li> <li>● <b>Insufficient funding:</b> The education sector in Nigeria often suffers from inadequate funding, leading to a lack of resources, underpaid teachers, and limited access to quality education for many students.</li> <li>● <b>Quality of teachers:</b> There is a shortage of qualified and well-trained teachers in Nigeria. Many teachers are poorly trained and lack the skills to instruct students effectively.</li> <li>● <b>Outdated curriculum:</b> The curriculum used in Nigerian schools is often outdated and does not adequately prepare students for the challenges of the modern world. The curriculum needs to be revised and updated to include relevant and practical knowledge and skills.</li> </ul> <p>To address these emerging issues and improve the education system in Nigeria, some key improvements and adjustments can be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Teacher training and professional development:</b> There should be a focus on enhancing the quality of teacher training programs and providing ongoing professional development opportunities to improve teaching methods and pedagogical skills.</li> <li>● <b>Emphasis on technology:</b> Integrating technology into classrooms can enhance teaching and learning processes, improve access to educational resources, and develop digital literacy skills among students and teachers.</li> <li>● <b>Addressing gender disparities:</b> Efforts should be made to promote gender equality in education, including measures to eliminate barriers that prevent girls from accessing education and ensure equal opportunities for both girls and boys.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Academic Calendar</b></p>	<p>For the 2022/2023 academic session, schools below the tertiary level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First Term - September to December</li> <li>● Second Term - January to April</li> <li>● Third Term - May to August</li> </ul> <p>At the tertiary level, the academic calendar consists of First and Second Semesters but differs in terms of duration and dates across various institutions of learning in Nigeria. For the University of Abuja, FCT,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First Semester was from October 31st, 2022, to March 25th, 2023</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Second Semester was from April 3rd, 2023, to September 1st, 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>SAT Test Centers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ZINCHI INT'L - Garki 2, Abuja</li> <li>● Exam Planet Services - Agege, Lagos</li> <li>● Synergy Lifeline Consulting - CBD, Abuja</li> </ul>
<b>ACT Test Centers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Excellent Point - Lekki, Lagos</li> <li>● MAFIT Study - Port Harcourt</li> <li>● CITA International School</li> </ul>
<b>IELTS/TOEFL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● British Council Nigeria</li> <li>● EducationUSA Advising Centers</li> <li>● B2Consulting</li> <li>● Greensprings School</li> </ul>
<b>Best Time for Admissions Officers to Visit</b>	<p>Nigerian schools typically follow a three-term academic calendar, running from September to July. The first term begins in September, the second in January, and the third in April. Planning visits on school days during the first to third terms is advisable for a better understanding of the school's daily operations, interaction with students and teachers, and classroom observations.</p>
<b>HALI Contacts</b>	<p><u><a href="mailto:info@waawfoundation.org">WAAW Foundation:</a></u>  <a href="mailto:info@waawfoundation.org">info@waawfoundation.org</a>   <a href="mailto:moromoke@waawfoundation.org">moromoke@waawfoundation.org</a></p> <p><u><a href="mailto:info@buildng.org">BUILD Nigeria INC.:</a></u>  <a href="mailto:info@buildng.org">info@buildng.org</a>   <a href="mailto:tolasewere@buildng.org">tolasewere@buildng.org</a></p>

**Sources:**

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- [The World Bank Data](#)
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