

The System Of Education in the USA



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Education in the USA

- Americans place a high value on education. Universal access to quality education has been one of the nation's historic goals. In 1865 education was becoming available to all.



Education in the USA

The American system of school education differs from the systems in other countries. The peculiar feature of American education is the absence of national administration. Each of the 50 states controls and directs its own school.



Versions of schools of the USA

- There are state public schools, private elementary schools and private secondary schools.



State public school

- Most students attend public schools. These schools are run by the government of a city. The citizens of the city pay taxes to pay for the school buildings, teachers' salaries and equipment and supplies for the schools. Public schools are usually large.



Private elementary 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.



Private elementary school

- The second year at school is considered the first year of primary school and is referred to as first grade.



Private secondary school



Primary school most commonly consists of five years of education, referred to as first through fifth grades. Upon completion of fifth grade (the last year of primary school), American children enrolled in the American education system advance to secondary school.

Private secondary school

- Secondary school most commonly consists of a total of seven years, referred to as sixth through twelfth grades. The ninth through twelfth grades are most commonly referred to as high school. Upon completion of twelfth grade, American students are awarded a certificate called the high school diploma.

Private secondary 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.

Harvard College

- Harvard College was established in 1636, with the principal purpose of providing a literate ministry¹ for colonial churches. It was a small institution, enrolling only 20 students in 1642 and 60 in 1660. It soon became more than a theological training school² and established itself as a liberal arts college.

Harvard College



The College of William and Mary

- The next institution of higher learning established in the American colonies was the College of William and Mary, which opened in 1693 at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Private and State Colleges and Universities

- Other colleges were founded in the next century, but all of them remained small schools for long periods.



Private and State Colleges and Universities

- Private colleges and universities were established in various states. The first state university was the University of Virginia, founded in 1819.



Private and State Colleges and Universities

- Higher education in the USA may be divided into two broad fields: liberal arts and professional. Each of these fields may be further subdivided into undergraduate and graduate levels.



Private and State Colleges and Universities

