



# Denmark

Education in Denmark is largely the responsibility of the national Ministry of Education. However the Ministry shares responsibility for Gymnasium and Højere Forberedelseseksamen with local school councils.

In Denmark, education is not compulsory until the child is 7 years old. Prior to that, parents may choose to put their children in nurseries or daycare as well as kindergarten and/or pre-primary school. At 7 years old, children are enrolled in Primary School, most commonly at a **Folkskole** (a municipally run public school) but they may also attend a **Private Grundskole** (a state subsidized private school). Primary school begins with the 1<sup>st</sup> form and ends with the 10<sup>th</sup> form. In some cases 10<sup>th</sup> form is offered at the same school as the first 9 forms. However, in areas with lower enrollment, municipalities will often make a joint 10<sup>th</sup> form attended by students from various primary schools. Alternatively, students may complete 10<sup>th</sup> form at an **Efterskoler**, a 10<sup>th</sup> form boarding school that often has special programs such as drama or sports.

After Primary school, students may transfer to some form of secondary school, namely to **Gymnasium** or a **Technical Secondary** or **Vocational school**, at age 16. These schools prepare students for appropriate higher level education such as university, advanced technical or advanced trade schools. Students may also decide to enroll in **Højere Forberedelseseksamen** (a two year higher education preparation course) and enter into post-secondary education that way. The chart below provides a summary of the various educational streams.

Age	6 mos – 2	3	4	5	6	7 – 15	16	17	18	19	20	21+
School Level	Nurseries	Kindergarten				Primary School (Folkskole or Private Grunskoler)	Optional 10 <sup>th</sup> form (Efterskoler)	Højere Forberedelseseksamen		Higher Education		
	Day Care	Pre-Primary					Gymnasium				University	
							Technical Secondary				Advanced Technical Schools	
							Vocational School (Erhvervsskoles)				Advanced Trades	

Danish students may write two standardized exams that are developed and marked by the Ministry of Education. The first is the leaving examination, written after the completion of Primary School. The second is the 10<sup>th</sup> form examination, which is written after the completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> form or the Efterskoler. These examinations are not compulsory. Pupils, in consultation with their parents and teachers, decide whether or not to write an exam in a particular subject. However, the overwhelming majority write both examinations in core subjects.