

SECONDARY SCHOOL SYSTEM IN EURASIA

Updated: February 2011 (FLEX / YES / ASMYLE / ExCEL)

Valid for: PY2011-2012

You can compare the number of grades below with the labels on your students' application to determine if the student has graduated or not. For example, students who were studying in the 11th grade in Azerbaijan when they applied to FLEX will have completed their secondary education by the time they arrive in the US in August 2011.

Looking at a specific example below, you can see on the sample application label below that the Azeri student was studying in Grade 11 when he applied to FLEX; thus, he will have completed his secondary education by the time he arrives to the US.

Please keep in mind that this chart is designed to only give a general idea about the secondary schooling in Eurasia. Due to the on-going decentralization of the educational system and growing number of private schools in Eurasia countries, two different students from the same country may have very different school records. Therefore, we strongly advise you that each student's school records be considered individually.

Y-01 Baku	A-011
Abbas-Zada, Eldar	
2011-04-033-1234	
Citizenship: Azerbaijan	Male 16
Baku, 47	
Grade: 11	Lang: 57 DOB: 1995 Jan 18

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF GRADES	MOST COMMON GRADING SCALE	GRADES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR 2011-2012
AFGHANISTAN (YES)	12	1-100	9, 10, 11
<p>Special Note: The length of the YES program in Afghanistan has decreased from one year to six months for the PY2012-2013. The 11th grade finalists, who participated in the YES program in 2010, will leave to the US in January 2012 when they will be done with secondary education.</p> <p>Students from Afghanistan whose application label lists their grade as 11 <u>will have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the YES program. Students whose application label lists their grade as 9 or 10 <u>will NOT have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the YES program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTE:</u> The educational levels in Afghan schools are as follows: a) primary school (grade 1-6); b) middle school (grade 7-9); c) high schools (grade 10-12).</p>			

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ALBANIA (YES)	12/13	5-10 ¹	10-11
<p>None of the Albanian students who applied for YES program will finish their secondary education, by the time they participate in YES program. Those who are in the 11th grade, will still have another year before graduating from the high school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The basic education in Albania changed two years ago from 1-8 (4+4) years, to 1-9 (5+4) years. This is considered to be the obligatory education for all the Albanians. ▪ The secondary education includes grades 10-12 for the general high schools. The professional schools are organized in 2+1 or 2+2 years after the elementary school (9 years of primary education). Still, this is under revision process. ▪ Elementary education begins at the age of 6. <p>¹ Failing grade is 4</p>			
ARMENIA (FLEX)	12	1-10	9, 10
<p>No students from Armenia will have completed their secondary education before they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p>All applicants should be 9th and 10th graders.</p>			
AZERBAIJAN (FLEX)	11	0-5	9, 10, 11
<p>Students from Azerbaijan whose application label lists their grade as 11 <u>will have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program. Students whose application label lists their grade as 9 or 10 <u>will NOT have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p>There are some private schools in Azerbaijan which are set up on a U.S. system, including having a different grading scale (0-100). The majority are state schools following the above system.</p>			
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (YES)	13	1 – 5	I and II grade of high school
<p>No students from Bosnia and Herzegovina will have completed their secondary education before they begin the YES program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will list their primary school grades from 1 – 9 ▪ Students will list their high school grades from I to IV ▪ Only students who are currently enrolled in I and II grade of high school are eligible for YES program* ▪ There are vocational high schools which last three years. We didn't have applications from these schools last year and but we did encourage them to apply - only 1st grade students since they would not complete their high school education before they would begin the YES program. <p>* 9-year elementary education started with its implementation in recent years so there are still generations who are on 8-year elementary education. Elementary school students who are on 9-year education start going to school at the age of 6 and students on 8-year education start at the age of 7.</p>			

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BULGARIA (YES)	12	2 – 6	9, 10
<p>No student from Bulgaria will have completed their secondary education before they begin the YES program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTE:</u> The educational levels in Bulgarian schools are as follows: a) primary school (grade 1-4); b) middle school (grade 5-8); c) high schools (grade 9-12). After grade 7 students could apply for the so-called specialized schools/gymnasium (language, math, music, arts, etc.) or vocational schools/gymnasium (chemistry, electronics, IT, engineering, etc.). Many of those schools offer in grade 8 an intensive year of a foreign language study mainly.</p>			
GEORGIA (FLEX)	12	1-10	9, 10, 11
<p>No students from Georgia will have completed their secondary education before they begin the FLEX program.</p>			
KAZAKHSTAN (FLEX)	11	2-5	8, 9, 10 or 1 st year of college
<p>No students from Kazakhstan will have completed their secondary education before they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTE:</u> After 6th grade, students may opt to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enter regular <i>high school</i>; ▪ Enter a <i>lyceum</i>. Lyceums offer a five-year course of advanced study of different subjects and is basically a university preparatory program. The Lyceum grades are 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. <p>After the 9th grade, students may opt to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue their secondary level of education in <i>high school</i> (which includes 10th and 11th grade); ▪ Enter a college. Colleges offer a four-year professional training program. First-year college students study curriculum equivalent to that of 10th and 11th grades in Kazakh high schools but in addition include focus on a specific profession. After completion of college students are considered to have completed their secondary education. The benefit of studying at the college is that those who complete colleges can skip the first two years of their higher education (university), and enter directly into the third course. ▪ After 11th grade, before graduation, the students have to pass National Testing at the end of May and beginning of June. With the results of this testing, the students earn their high school diplomas and have the opportunity to get national scholarships to enter the Kazakhstan universities. However, this is the last year when the students can graduate from high school and enter university with the results of national testing. It will change next year. We will update as soon as we get new information. <p>Finally, there are several international high schools in Kazakhstan, which use a US grading scale (letter grades) as opposed to the usual number grade scale.</p>			
LITHUANIA (EXCEL)	12	1-10	10
<p>No students from Lithuania will have completed their secondary education before they begin the ExCEL program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTES:</u> The Ministry of Education has been working very closely with the development of the ExCEL program since its inception. They have taken a decentralized approach to awarding credit for students' year on program, leaving cases to be decided on an individual basis among school directors, participants and their parents.</p>			

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KOSOVO (YES)	12 (13)	1-5	10, 11
<p>No students from Kosovo will have completed their secondary education before they begin the YES program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTE:</u> The educational levels in Kosovar schools are organized as follows: a) Level 1: Primary Education, grade 1-5 (normally ages between 6-12); b) Level 2: Lower Secondary Education (second stage of basic education) for 4 years, grade 6-9 (normally ages 12-15); and c) Level 3: Upper Secondary Education for 3 or 4 years depending on the curriculum settled by the Ministry of Education, grade 10-12/13 (normally ages 15-18/19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 13th grade is optional, but normally students who have finished their 12th year, after their successful Matura exam, are considered to be eligible to apply for university. 			
KYRGYZSTAN (FLEX)	11	0-5	9, 10, 11 or 1 st year of college
<p>Students from Kyrgyzstan whose application label lists their grade as 11 <u>will have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTE:</u> After the 9th grade, students may opt to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue their secondary level of education in <i>secondary schools or lyceums</i> (which includes 10th and 11th grade); Lyceums are the same secondary schools, but have additional hours for separate courses (e.g. more Math, Biology or English) or special courses that lie beyond the secondary school curriculum; ▪ Enter a college. Colleges offer a three - four-year professional training program. First-year college students study curriculum equivalent to that of the 10th and 11th grades (within one year) of high schools and begin to study specific subjects on their future profession when they are second year students. ▪ NOTE: There are some colleges (few) where the students study the secondary school curriculum within first two years 			
MACEDONIA (YES)	12	1-5	I and II grade of high school
<p>No students from Macedonia will have completed their secondary education before they begin the YES program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will list their primary school grades from 1 – 8 ▪ Students will list their high school grades from I to IV ▪ Only students who are currently enrolled in I and II grade of high school are eligible for YES program ▪ There are vocational high schools which last three years, but we haven't had applicants from these schools who made it to R3, but even they would not complete their high school education before they would begin the YES program 			

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MOLDOVA (FLEX)	11 or 12	1-10	9, 10, 11
<p>Students from Moldova whose application label lists their grade as 11 and who attend a regular secondary school, called a <i>scoala</i> or <i>shkola</i>, will have completed their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program. Students whose application label lists their grade as 11 and who attend a <i>lyceum</i>, <i>litsey</i>, <i>colegiu</i> or <i>uchilische</i> will not have completed their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTE:</u> In Moldovan educational system there are four types of secondary schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lyceums/liceul/litsey : grades 10-12 ▪ Schools/scoala/shkola: grades 5-11 ▪ Gimnazium/gimnaziu/gimnaziya: grades 5-9 ▪ Colegiu/uchilische: grades 10-12, with vocational training <p>New Ministry of Education rules regarding non-negotiable testing dates mean that students who miss the exams, which are much earlier than the return travel period for FLEX, are required to repeat the year they missed while on FLEX.</p>			
MONTENEGRO (ASMYLE)	13	1-5	See below
<p>No students from Montenegro will have completed their secondary education before they begin the A-SMYLE program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will list their primary school grades from 1 – 9 ▪ Students will list their high school grades from I to IV ▪ Only students who are currently enrolled in I and II grade of high school are eligible for A-SMYLE program* ▪ There are vocational high schools which last three years, but we haven't had applicants from these schools who made it to R3, but even they would not complete their high school education before they would begin the A-SMYLE program <p>*9-year elementary education started with its implementation in recent years so there are still generations who are on 8-year elementary education. Elementary school students who are on 9-year education start going to school at the age of 6 and students on 8-year education start at the age of 7.</p>			
RUSSIA (FLEX)	11	1-5	8, 9, 10
<p>No students from Russia will have completed their secondary education before they begin the FLEX program.</p>			
SERBIA (ASMYLE)	12	1-5	See Below
<p>No students from Serbia will have completed their secondary education before they begin the A-SMYLE program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will list their primary school grades from 1 – 8 ▪ Students will list their high school grades from I to IV ▪ Only students who are currently enrolled in I and II grade of high school are eligible for A-SMYLE program ▪ There are vocational high schools which last three years, but we haven't had applicants from these schools who made it to R3, but even they would not complete their high school education before they would begin the A-SMYLE program 			

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TAJIKISTAN (FLEX)	11	1-5	9, 10, 11
<p>Students from Tajikistan whose application label lists their grade as 11 <u>will have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program. Students whose application label lists their grade as 9 or 10 <u>will NOT have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p>In addition, all of Tajikistan students will have to repeat the year they missed, including those students who spent their final (11th form) year of school in the United States: according to a long-standing and increasingly strict ruling from the Ministry of Education, none of them has the right to enter directly into university without first repeating their year abroad here.</p>			
TURKMENISTAN (FLEX)	10 or 11	1-5	Based on age only
<p>Students from Turkmenistan who attend Turkmen secondary schools and whose application label lists their grade as 9 <u>will NOT have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program. Students attending Turkmen secondary schools and whose application label lists their grade as 10 <u>will have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p>Students attending Turkmen-Russian secondary schools and whose application label lists their grade as 10 <u>will NOT have completed</u> their secondary education by the time they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTE:</u> Turkmen secondary schools now include 10 grades. Turkmen – Russian secondary schools include 11 grades.</p>			
UKRAINE (FLEX)	11, 12	1-12	8, 9, 10
<p>No students from Ukraine will have completed their secondary education before they begin the FLEX program.</p> <p><u>ADDITIONAL NOTES:</u> Ukraine has abandoned the process of moving to a 12-year educational system. For now, 11th grade is the last year of secondary school for Ukrainian children.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has mandatory standardized college entrance testing. 2012 will be the fifth year of testing. Testing will begin June 2 in 2011. As in previous years, there is no standardized testing period yet, nor is there a developed system of make-up testing – and the dates for make up tests testing are often set at a very late date. Each year the Ministry decides when testing will be and how to handle those not able to take tests on the appointed day. In 2008, tests were held from early April-late June. FLEX students were allowed to take missed tests at extra sessions in July. In 2009, testing started in early May and lasted through mid-June but the Ministry did not have the funds to hold make-up sessions. 2010's make-up tests started July 29. The decision as to whether make-up testing will be offered in 2011, and when, will likely be made only in May.</p>			