



SCHOOL SYSTEM INFORMATION/ COLOMBIA

Students go through eleven years to obtain a high school (bachillerato) diploma, not including nursery school or kindergarten. Some students may take one or two years of nursery school during which they learn to read and write before entering first grade.

The eleven years or grades are divided into five years of elementary school and six years of secondary school.

Most of the schools are private and some of them are public; almost everybody go to private school without this meaning to be a wealthy person, as there are big differences in the cost of certain private schools according to the economical level of their students. The public schools are usually the hardest ones in the whole country and they are very difficult to get accepted into, since they require excellent grades and a very good academic performance in order to remain at the school.

Due to the climatic differences, there are two different school schedules: cities such as Cali, Popayán and La Guajira start their school year in August and end by the middle of June; other cities as Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Cúcuta, Medellín, Pamplona, Pereira, Girardot, Tunja and Villavicencio start the school year in January and end it in November.

All the schools offer certain type of courses established by the government.

During sophomore year students have the opportunity to choose a vocational area in which they want to intensify courses depending on the field they have chosen.

The everyday schedule is usually from 8 to 3 and the classes vary each day of the week. Most of the schools are only boys or only girls and just a few are coed.

Since most of the students who travel with the AFS year program are going through their fourth, fifth or sixth year of secondary school, we give the following list of subjects taken during those years in Colombia.

CUARTO BACHILLERATO

Algebra y geometría
Español y Literatura Universal
Biología
Geografía de Colombia
Historia de Colombia
Idioma (inglés y francés)
Educación Física
Educación Estética
Vocacionales y Técnicas
Religión

NINTH GRADE

Algebra and geometry
Spanish and world literature
Biology
Colombian geography
Colombian History
Foreign language
Physical Education
Esthetics (art)
Vocational studies
Religion

QUINTO DE BACHILLERATO

Física (1 parte)
Química (Inorganica)
Trigonometría
Geometría analítica
Filosofía (lógica)
Comportamiento y Salud
Literatura y Español
Idioma extranjero (inglés y Francés)
Educación Física
Vocacionales y técnicas
Religión

TENTH YEAR

Physics (first part)
Chemistry (inorganic)
Trigonometry
Analytic geometry
Philosophy (logic)
Health and behavior
Literature and Spanish
Foreign Language
Physical Education
Vocational Studies
Religion

SEXTO BACHILLERATO

Física (2 parte)
Cálculo
Química
Filosofía
Idioma extranjero
Comportamiento y salud
Español y Literatura
Educación Física
Vocacionales y Técnicas
Religión

ELEVENTH YEAR

Physics (2 part)
Calculus
Chemistry
Philosophy
Foreign Language
Behavior and health
Spanish and literature
Physical Education
Vocational studies
Religion

GRADING SYSTEM

There are seven main areas: Natural sciences, social sciences, esthetics, physical education, religion, Spanish and literature and Math which are complemented by a foreign language and a vocational areas during the last six years.

The school year is divided into four equal periods:

First period is worth 10 % of the final grade

Second period is worth 20 % of the final grade

Third period is worth 30 % of the final grade

Fourth period is worth 40 % of the final grade

A : 9.0 to 10 = OUTSTANDING = EXCELLENT = E

B : 8.0 to 9.0= VERY GOOD = NOTABLE= N

C : 7.0 to 8.0 = GOOD = G = B

D : 6.0 to 6.9 = AVERAGE/FAIR = A

F : 5.0 to 6.0 = POOR = DEFICIENT = D

Minimum passing grade : 6.0

Failing under 6.0

When an area has more than one subject the average will be the final grade for the area. If the student fails 3 or more areas the entire year has to be repeated. If a student fails one or two areas he can take a special exam and if the exam is failed again the full year has to be repeated.

CURRENT COLOMBIAN EDUCATIONAL GRADING SYSTEM IS EVALUATED ACCORDING TO ACHIEVEMENTS OR NON-ACHIEVEMENTS.