

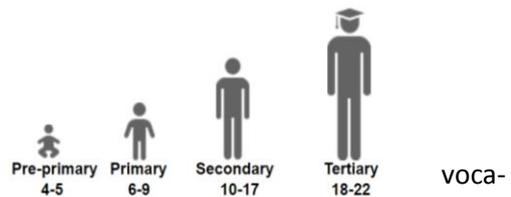


# Education

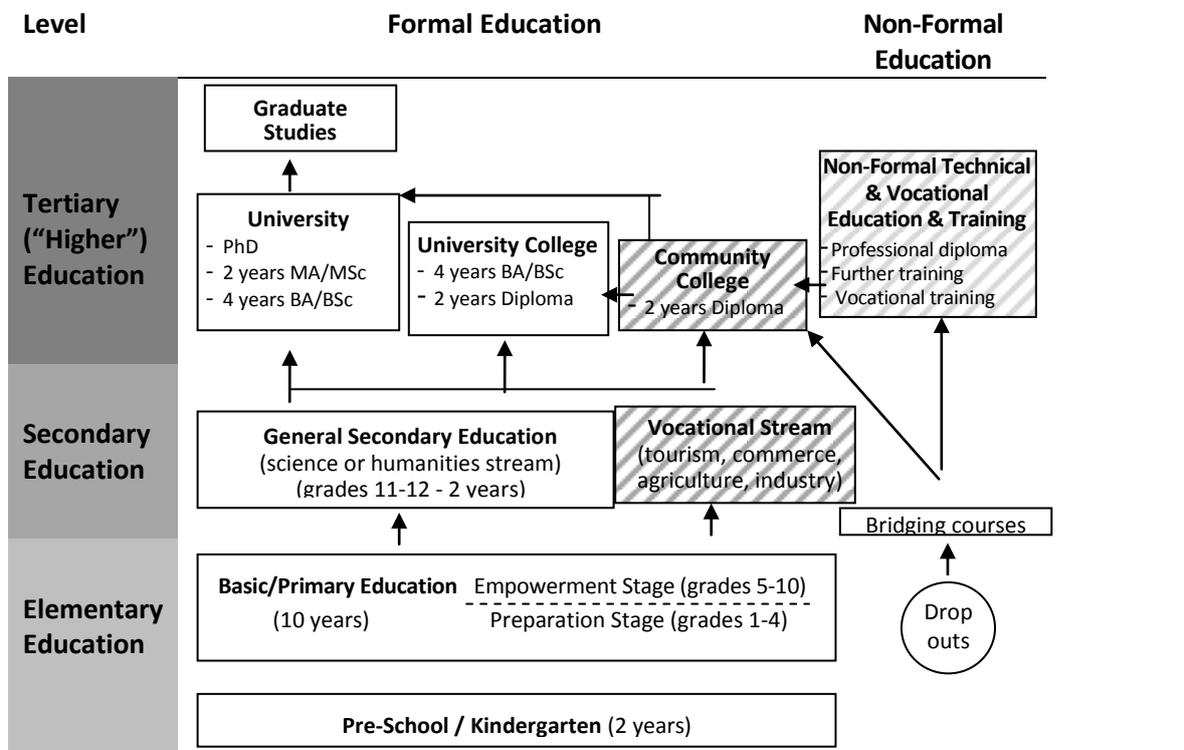
## ■ Facts & Figures

- Following the 1994 Oslo I Accord, the PA **Ministry of Education** was established. The first Palestinian national **curriculum** - replacing the Jordanian and Egyptian curricula in use since 1967 - was introduced in September 2000; it made Palestine the first Arab country to teach English from 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and introduced technology as a compulsory subject in grades 5-10, Home Economics, Environment and Health as an elective subject in grades 7-10, and “Current Issues” as well as Economics & Management in grades 11-12 (World Bank, *West Bank & Gaza - Education Sector Analysis*, 2006).

- Education System:** Compulsory basic education covers 10 years (grades 1-10), divided into the *Preparation Stage* (grades 1-4) and the *Empowerment Stage* (grades 5 to 10). *Secondary Education* covers grades 11 and 12, with the option of general secondary education, and a few vocational secondary schools offering courses in commerce, agriculture, technology, industry and hospitality. *General Secondary Education* is separated into a *literary* or a *science* stream, ending with the (not-standardized) **Tawjihi** exam at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



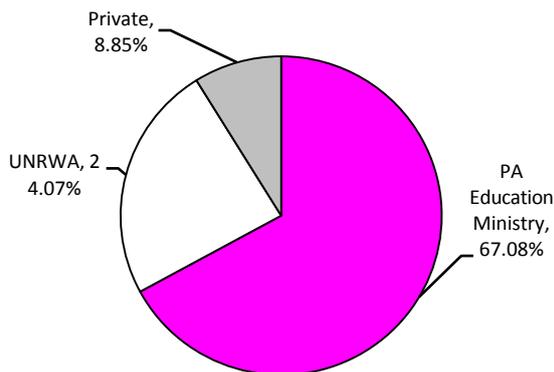
### Education System in Palestine\*



\* Hatched boxes = Vocational Training

Source: Adapted from *Torino Process 2010 - Occupied Palestinian Territories*, European Training Foundation, 2010.

### Main Education Providers (% of schools overseen)



### Education Sector at a Glance:

<b>Number of kindergartens (2015/16)</b>	1,666
<b>Children enrolled in kindergartens</b>	141,406
<b>Number of Schools (2015/16)</b>	2,914
- Basic stage	1,954
- Secondary stage	960
<b>Pupils enrolled in schools (2015/16)</b>	1,192,808
- female (50.4%)	601,691
<b>Classes (2015/16)</b>	39,689
<b>Number of teachers (2015/16)</b>	55,174
<b>Pupil-Teacher ratio (2015/16):</b>	21.6
<b>Illiteracy rate (15+) (2015)</b>	3.3%
<b>Repetition rate primary (2014/15):</b>	1.0%
<b>Repetition rate secondary (2014/15):</b>	0.35%
<b>Drop-out rate primary (2014/15):</b>	1.28%
<b>Drop-out rate secondary (2014/15):</b>	1.96%
<b>Tawjihi</b>	
- Students taking exam	78,523
- Students passing	50,284 (64.8%)
<b>Net enrolment - Pre-primary*</b>	45.4%
<b>Net enrolment rate - Primary*</b>	90.8%
<b>Net enrolment rate - Secondary*</b>	80.1%
<b>Gross enrolment ratio - Tertiary*</b>	44.0%
<b>Primary to secondary transition rate*</b>	99.45%

Sources: Ministry of Education, 2015/16 Statistics. \*UNESCO Institute for Statistics (data.uis.unesco.org) (2014 data).

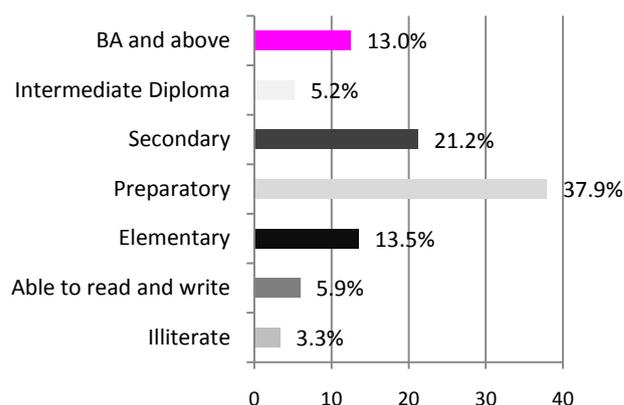
- The **illiteracy rate** among Palestinians 15 years and older has dropped from 13.9% in 1997 to 3.3% in 2015 (female: 5.1%, male: 1.5%; WB: 3.5%, GS: 3%). Illiteracy rates vary with age group: 38.6% of those 65+ years are illiterate, as are 4.4% of the 45-64 years old, 1.1% of the 30-44 years old and 0.7% of the 15-29 years old. The rate in urban localities is 3%, in rural localities 4.8%, and in refugee camps 3% (PCBS, *Press Release on International Literacy Day*, 7 Sept. 2016).
- 26.4% of children aged 36-59 months attend an **early childhood education** program.
- In the 2015/2016 school year, 248 of the total of 2,914 schools had an **evening shift** (WB: 9, GS: 239) (Ministry of Education). In **Gaza**, classes in 67% of governmental and 75% of UNRWA schools run on **double shifts** (OCHA, *Humanitarian Bulletin*, August 2016).
- In 2015/2016, 78.3% of all WBGs schools had a **library**, 79% a **computer lab** (with one computer on average for each 24.2 students), 72.8% a **science lab**, and 68.6% **counselors** (with an average of 663 students per counselor) (Ministry of Education, 2015/2016 Statistics).

### Basic & Secondary Education: Schools & Students by Supervising Authority, 2015/2016

		West Bank	Gaza Strip
<b>Private</b>	Students/Class	22.6	21.1
	Classes	4,221	911
	Schools	358 (m: 35, f: 24, mixed: 299)	68 (m: 10, f: 6, mixed: 52)
	Students	95,569 (of which f: 39,744 =41.6%)	19,235 (of which f: 7,205 =37.5%)
<b>UNRWA</b>	Students/Class	32	39
	Classes	1,526	6,361
	Schools	96 (m: 35, f: 48, mixed: 13)	257 (m: 109, f: 58, mixed: 90)
	Students	48,776 (of which f: 28,722 =56.8%)	248,059 (of which f: 120,883 =48.7%)
<b>Government</b>	Students/Class	26.9	37.1
	Classes	20,414	6,256
	Schools	1,740 (m:663, f: 655, mixed: 422)	395 (m: 177, f: 163, mixed: 55)
	Students	548,820 (of which f:283,265 =51.6%)	232,349 (of which f: 121,872 =52.5%)
<b>Total</b>	Students/Class	<b>26.5</b>	<b>36.9</b>
	Classes	<b>26,161</b> (of which 5,753 co-ed)	<b>13,528</b> (of which 2,881 co-ed)
	Schools	<b>2,194</b> (m: 734, f: 727, mixed:734)	<b>720</b> (m: 296, f: 227, mixed: 197)
	Students	<b>693,165</b> (of which f: 346,973 =50%)	<b>499,643</b> (of which f: 249,960 =50%)

Source: Ministry of Education, 2016.

### Educational Attainment, 2015 (15+ years)



Source: PCBS, *Palestine in Figures 2015, 2016*.

- After tenth grade of basic education, only a small (but growing) number of Palestinian students (1.1% of all secondary enrolment in 2011) chooses the **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** track for grades 11-12. The major streams for TVET are industrial, agricultural, commercial, and tourism. In 2014, there were 19 **vocational schools** in Palestine, 14 public and 4 private, with one being a multi-purpose center (Ministry of Education and Higher Education, *Education Development Strategic Plan 2014-2019 - A Learning Nation*, March 2014). In 2016, TVET was included as part of the standard education system (UNESCO, *Report to the AHLC*, September 2016).
- In 2015, 9.2% of those 15 years or older did **not complete any stage** of education, while 13% **completed university** education (BA and above) (PCBS, *Press Release on International Population Day*, July 2016).
- As of June 2016, education contributed **6.9%** to the **GDP** (excl. Jerusalem) (WB: 6.4%, GS: 8.8%) (PCBS, *Quarterly National Accounts, Q2-2016*) and **employed 10.1%** of the work force (WB: 9.3%, GS: 11.8%) (PCBS, *Labor Force Survey, Q2-2016*).

### Higher Education

- **Post-secondary/tertiary education** is offered in universities, university/technical colleges (mainly four-year programs) and community colleges (mainly two-year diploma courses in technical and commercial fields). In 2015/16, 216,028 students were enrolled in institutions of **higher education**, 60.6% of them women (Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2015).
- In 2014, 12.5% of those 15 years or older had completed education with a **university degree** (BA and higher), 5.1% with an Associate Diploma, 20.8% with the secondary and 38.1% with the preparatory school stage (PCBS, *Statistical Yearbook of Palestine 2015*, December 2015).

### Number and Main Specialization of Graduates (20-29 years), 2015

Subject (percentage of graduates)	male (99,000)	female (125,000)
Business and Administration	28.5%	20.1%
Teacher Training and Education Science	*	19.2%
Health	13.4%	8.7%
Engineering and Engineering trades	11.4%	*
Humanities	6.5%	16.2%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	5.7%	11.9%
Computer Science	6.6%	*

\* minor figures;

Source: PCBS, *Educational fields & labor market for persons aged 20-29 years in 2015*, June 2016.

## Higher Education Institutions, Students and Graduates, 2015

<b>No. of Accredited Higher Education Institutions</b>	50 (WB: 33, GS: 16 - plus 1 Open University)
<b>Total Registered Students (2015/16)</b>	216,028 (female: 130,843 = 60.6%)
- Studying towards an MA degree	6,896 (female: 3,706 = 53.7%)
<b>Total Graduates (2015/16)</b>	43,544 (female: 26,596 = 61.1%)
- Graduating with an MA degree	1,949 (female: 1,008 = 51.7%)
<b>Total Academic Faculty Staff (2015/16)</b>	7,011 (female: 1,574 = 22.4%)
<b>Community Colleges (up to diploma)</b>	18 (WB; 12, GS: 6)
- Students enrolled	10,563 (female: 5,311)
- Graduates	3,486 (female: 1,954)
<b>University Colleges (up to BA)</b>	17 (WB: 12, GS: 5)
- Students enrolled	15,422 (female: 7,940)
- Graduates	3,468 (female: 2,017)
<b>Universities (up to MA)</b>	14 (WB: 9; GS: 5)
- Students enrolled	132,348 (female: 79,128)
- Graduates	26,825 (female: 15,624)
<b>Open University (up to BA)</b>	1 (22 branches – WB: 17, GS: 5)
- Students enrolled Open Univ.	57,695 (female: 38,464)
- Graduates	9,765 (female: 7,001)



Source: Ministry of Higher Education, 2015/2016 Statistics.

### Recommended Research Sources:

<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps> (education statistics)

<http://www.moehe.gov.ps/en/>

<http://www.unicef.org/oPt/>

<http://www.tvet-pal.org/> (vocational training)

<http://www.unesco.org/Ramallah>

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en.html>

**Ministry of Education and Higher Education**, *Education Development Strategic Plan 2014-2019 - A Learning Nation*, March 2014, [http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Palestine/Palestine\\_Education\\_development\\_strategic\\_plan\\_2014\\_2019.pdf](http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Palestine/Palestine_Education_development_strategic_plan_2014_2019.pdf).

**Rigby, Andrew**, *Palestinian Education: The Future Challenge*, Jerusalem: PASSIA, 1995.

**UNICEF**, *oPt Monthly Updates*.