

The Norwegian school system

Children living in Norway for more than 3 months, have the right and obligation to go to school. Children enrolls in to the school the year they turn six.

Primary and lower secondary education is compulsory and lasts for 10 years. Parents must contact the nearest school or the local municipality to register children at school. If you live in Oslo, you can find your local primary school by using this webpage. You can find the corresponding lower secondary school by using this webpage.

The first 7 years children attend primary school (barneskolen), followed by 3 years of lower secondary school (ungdomskolen). Youth are entitled to, but not obliged to attend an additional 3 years of upper secondary school (videregående skole). Public schools are free of charge, and girls and boys share classes. Teaching is in Norwegian only. Alternatively, one can explore opportunities at private schools. These usually charge school fees.

All children have the right to go to their local school. Specially adapted Norwegian education for newly arrived non-Norwegian speakers is organized according to the pupil's age and school background. It is common to attend a language center for up to 6 months before starting at the local school. You can read about the language education in Oslo here.

Primary school

At age 6, children start at a local primary school ("barneskole" in Norwegian) that is within walking distance of the child's residence. Primary school extends through Grade 7. All schools offer an afterschool programme for children from grades 1 to 4 ("SFO" or "skolefritidsordning" in Norwegian). Contact municipality for additional information.

Middle school

Grades 8, 9 and 10 are instructed in a middle school ("ungdomsskole" in Norwegian) that typically draws its attendees from 2 or 3 different primary schools. Unless your student attends a private school, the middle school that your child attends is completely determined by the location of your Stavanger residence. Contact municipality for additional information.

High school

High schools ("videregående skole" in Norwegian) in Stavanger extend from grades 11-13. Students are not required to attend high school, but those who want to attend must apply to specific schools in the Stavanger region. Contact Rogaland County for additional information.