

**INGLESE**

# CAPIRE LA SCUOLA

**informazioni plurilingui sul  
sistema scolastico in Italia**

A cura del Gruppo di Lavoro Azione 3 Progetto *Oltre la Media - Comunità Educante*.

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Progetto Oltre la Media Comunità Educante – Pr. n 2020-EDU-01996 az 3

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Queste informazioni sono il frutto del lavoro realizzato nell'ambito del Progetto "Oltre la Media Comunità Educante", dagli operatori di Open Group, Aipi coop, Centro RiESco e da un team di insegnanti degli Istituti di Bologna. Si tratta di informazioni generali che descrivono il complesso mondo della scuola, cercando di rendere le indicazioni chiare ed accessibili per le famiglie non italofone. Per chiarimenti o dettagli potete rivolgervi alle insegnanti.

Si ringraziano in particolare le insegnanti:

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# UNDERSTAND SCHOOLING

## Multilingual information on the school system in Italy

curated by the group 'Lavoro Azione 3 *Oltre la Media - Comunità Educante*

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This information is the result of work carried out within the project “Oltre la Media Comunità Educante” by Open Group operators, Aipi coop, Centro RiESco, and a team of teachers from Bologna’s schools. It provides general information about the complex world of education, aiming to make the guidelines clear and accessible for non-Italian-speaking families. For clarifications or details, you can contact the teachers.

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The project ‘Oltre la Media’ is coordinated by Open Group in partnership with Centro RIESco Comune di Bologna, Open formazione, AIPI Coop, ASP, and IC 14.





## HOW DOES THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WORK IN ITALY?

The **educational system** requires attendance from ages 6 to 16, for 10 consecutive years. The school system is organised as follows:

- preschool for children from **3 to 6 years old**;
- primary school (elementary school), lasting 5 years, mandatory for children from **6 to 11 years old**;
- lower secondary school (middle school), lasting 3 years, mandatory for children from **11 to 14 years old**;
- Upper secondary school (high school) for students from **14 to 19 years old**, lasting 5 years with the first two years being mandatory; it is also possible to enrol in three-year and four-year vocational education and training programs. Education is mandatory until the age of 16.

Education is mandatory until the age of 16.

## MANDATORY EDUCATION

The Italian state considers education a constitutional right for all citizens residing within its territory. Italian law regards education as a duty from ages 6 to 16, for 10 consecutive years.

We remind you that attendance is mandatory and **absences must be justified**. Unjustified absences cannot exceed 15 days, whether consecutive or not, within a three-month period. Exceeding this limit will prompt the school to report to the Municipality of Bologna that the student is not attending, which may result in legal penalties. The educational system requires attendance from ages 6 to 16 for 10 consecutive years.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL (6-11 years)

Primary school is mandatory and lasts 5 years. The goal is to develop basic knowledge and the full development of the person.

Children attending primary school have the opportunity to develop cognitive, emotional, affective, social, physical, ethical, and religious dimensions. Through various subjects, primary school supports the development of reflective and critical thinking necessary to become aware and responsible citizens.

State primary schools and private schools are both part of the national education system.

### Enrolment

Primary school attendance is mandatory for all children in the national territory, regardless of citizenship, who are six years old. Children who are 5 years old can be enrolled in primary school at the request of their families, provided they turn six by April 30 of the school year. For informed choices, it is advisable to ask for guidance from preschool teachers.

Enrolment in primary schools is done online on the Ministry of Education's website through the UNICA Platform, at <https://unica.istruzione.gov.it/it/orientamento/iscrizioni>

Enrolment generally takes place in January, preceding the start of the school year in September. Enrolment must be done at each transition (from preschool to primary school, from primary to lower secondary school, and from lower to upper secondary school).

To enrol, a digital identity document (SPID or CIE) is required. To request these:  
<https://identitadigitale.gov.it/>

Without SPID, you can go directly to the chosen school.

### Organisation and timetables

The weekly class schedule in primary school can vary. There are primarily two types of organisation. The two options are provided on the registration form, you can choose according to your preference.

1. Full-time school (40 hours per week) with classes in the morning and afternoon for five days a week, from Monday to Friday.
2. Modular school with classes only in the morning and some afternoons per week (2 or 3 afternoons), from Monday to Friday

### What is studied

Primary school includes the following subjects:

- Italian
- English language
- History
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Science
- Music
- Art
- Physical education
- Technology
- Civic education

Families can request Catholic religion classes for two hours a week. Families can choose not to attend Catholic religion classes.

### Assessment of Learning

Primary school assigns each child a judgement describing the level of achievement of learning objectives for each subject. These judgments are included in an **Evaluation Document** where you will find not only the level achieved but also a description of the learning and a summary judgement on the child's behavior.

The evaluation document is published twice a year: after the first period, around February, and at the end of the school year, in June. At the end of the school year, the document will include an

“ADMISSION/FAILED ADMISSION” entry for the next school year. Students not admitted will have to repeat the school year.

## LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL (11-14 years)

Lower level secondary school lasts for three years. It enhances learning in individual subjects, promotes broader knowledge, encourages study autonomy and social interaction, fosters awareness of personal abilities to build a life plan, and supports IT knowledge and two foreign languages, adding a second foreign language alongside English

### Operating hours

The mandatory annual class schedule is 30 hours per week, generally from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (for classes from Monday to Saturday) or from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM (for classes from Monday to Friday). Some schools offer extended hours, up to 36-40 hours per week. This option is indicated on the online enrollment form.

### Disciplines of Study

The compulsory subjects for lower secondary school students are:

- Italian
- English and a second community language
- History
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Science
- Music
- Art
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Civic education

Additionally, for students who choose, Catholic religion classes are available for one hour per week. Families can opt-out of Catholic religion classes and choose an alternative activity.

### Music Education Paths

Some schools offer music education paths, which include studying a musical instrument and musical practice alongside traditional subjects.

To access music education paths, families must apply at the time of enrollment. After applying, the student will be invited to a test to assess their abilities and direct them to one of the four courses offered by the school, considering available places.

In music education paths, instrumental lessons, both individual and group, take place for three additional hours per week. Instrumental teaching is part of the annual schedule, mandatory for enrolled students, and subject to periodic and final evaluation.

### Assessment of Learning

Assessment in lower secondary school is expressed through grades out of ten. The grade is accompanied by a description of the overall level of learning development achieved. The minimum passing grade is 6/10. The maximum grade is 10/10.

Behaviour is assessed through a summary judgement included in the evaluation document.

The evaluation document is published twice a year: after the first period, around February, and at the end of the school year, in June. At the end of the school year, the document includes an **ADMISSION/FAILED ADMISSION** entry for the next school year. Students not admitted will have to repeat the school year.

The Evaluation Document is published on the electronic register, accessible to families with credentials or SPID.

### Final State Exam for the First Cycle of Education

At the end of the third year of lower secondary school, students must take a state exam.

Students can take the exam if they have attended at least 75% of the hours, participated in national tests in Italian, mathematics, English.

The exam consists of three written tests (Italian, mathematics, English, and the second community language) on three different days and an oral exam aimed at assessing the level of acquired knowledge, skills, and competencies described in the student's final profile. For students enrolled in music programs, the oral exam includes a practical instrument test.

## UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL (14-19 years)

After completing lower secondary school, students move on to upper secondary school. The choice of upper secondary school is made when applying for enrollment, which families must submit in January of the previous year (during the third year of lower secondary school) through online registration on the Ministry's website. Students and families choose between different types of schools: Licei (High Schools), Technical Institutes, and Vocational Institutes.

In the third year of lower secondary school, schools offer guidance paths for choosing upper secondary schools and provide personalised advice to families.

Upper secondary school ends with a State Exam, which evaluates the skills acquired during the course. Students must take written tests and an oral exam. Upon passing the exam, students receive a diploma, which certifies success in the course and allows access to university or certain professions.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

High schools are aimed at obtaining a diploma of upper secondary education.

The high school provides students with cultural and methodological tools for a thorough understanding of reality, in order to develop a rational, creative, project-oriented, and critical attitude towards situations, phenomena, and problems.

It also helps students acquire skills that are consistent with their abilities and personal choices and are suitable for continuing university studies. High school programs last for 5 years with the purpose of preparing students for university attendance rather than for specific job preparation.

### 1. Artistic High School

After a basic two-year period, artistic disciplines are explored in depth according to the tracks of Architecture, Figurative Arts, Multimedia, Design, and Graphics.

[Liceo Arcangeli](#)

### 2. Classical High School

Deepens the humanities subjects such as Italian, History, and Philosophy, and includes the study of Greek in addition to Latin.

[Liceo Minghetti](#); [Liceo Galvani](#);

### 3. Linguistic High School

Students study two additional foreign languages besides English and are provided with a basic education in humanities, particularly, and scientific subjects.

[Liceo Galvani](#); [Liceo Laura Bassi](#); [Liceo Righi](#); [Liceo Copernico](#); [IIS Ettore Majorana](#), [IIS Archimede](#); [IIS Montessori- Da Vinci](#).

### 4. Musical and Choreographic High School

In addition to the typical subjects of each high school, it focuses on music or dance-related subjects, both theoretically and practically.

[Liceo Laura Bassi](#).

### 5. Scientific High School

Deepens scientific subjects, particularly Mathematics, Physics, and Sciences, while maintaining a high level in humanities subjects such as Italian and Latin.

[Liceo Galvani](#); [Liceo Righi](#); [Liceo Sabin](#); [Liceo Copernico](#); [IIS Archimede](#), [IIS Giordano Bruno](#), [IIS Keynes](#), [IIS Caduti della Direttissima](#); [IIS Montessori- Da Vinci](#)

### 6. Scientific High School with Applied Sciences Option

Maintains the structure of the scientific high school but with a more practical approach, enhancing sciences, adding Computer Science among the subjects, and excluding Latin.

[Liceo Righi](#); [Liceo Sabin](#); [Liceo Copernico](#); [IIS Giordano Bruno](#), [IIS Keynes](#), [IIS Alberghetti](#) [Liceo Sabin](#)

### 7. Human Sciences High School

Provides a humanistic education with a particular focus on interpersonal and educational relationships, social living forms, and care for the common good and institutional forms in the socio-educational field.

[Liceo Laura Bassi](#), [Liceo Sabin](#); [IIS Rosa Luxemburg](#); [IIS Montessori- Da Vinci](#)

## 8. Human Sciences High School with Economic-Social Option

Offers a humanistic approach and includes subjects such as Psychology, Pedagogy, Sociology, and Anthropology instead of Latin.

[Liceo Laura Bassi](#), [Liceo Sabin](#); [IIS Rosa Luxemburg](#); [IIS Giordano Bruno](#), [IIS Keynes](#), [IIS Montessori-Da Vinci](#)

## TECHNICAL INSTITUTES

Technical Institutes offer courses related to fundamental sectors of the economy and the labour market. With a technical institute diploma, it is possible to either continue university studies, especially in scientific, technological, and economic degree programs, or aim for immediate entry into the job market.

This is because Technical Institutes are also designed to prepare specialised technicians to be inserted into labour market sectors related to the study paths, also through school-work alternation programs at local businesses. At the end of the five-year course, students take the State Exam and obtain the upper secondary education diploma.

Technical institutes are divided into two sectors: economic and technological, with eleven courses:

## ECONOMIC SECTOR

**1. Administration, Finance, and Marketing:** This course develops skills related to production and promotion processes, providing contact with business, insurance, and financial realities. [IIS Crescenzi- Pacinotti - Sirani](#); [IIS Manfredi Tanari](#); [IIS Salvemini](#); [IIS Rosa Luxemburg](#); [IIS Archimede](#); [IIS Giordano Bruno](#); [IIS Keynes](#), [IIS Caduti della Direttissima](#).

**2. Tourism:** This course develops skills useful for entering the tourism service sector, learning how to enhance artistic and landscape heritage, and highlighting the specificities of different territories. [IIS Manfredi Tanari](#); [IIS Rosa Luxemburg](#); [IIS Bartolomeo Scappi](#).

## TECHNOLOGICAL SECTOR

**1. Mechanics, Mechatronics, and Energy:** This course aims to train professionals capable of designing and building mechanical and electromechanical systems.

[IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti](#); [IIS Aldini Valeriani](#); [IIS Ettore Majorana](#); [IIS Alberghetti](#); [IIS Montessori- Da Vinci](#).

**2. Logistics and Transportation:** This course allows students to explore subjects related to work in the transportation sector, including the design and management of naval, land, and air transport systems.

[IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti](#).

**3. Electronics and Electrotechnics:** Teaches understanding of electronics, robotics applied to production processes, and industrial automation.

[IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti](#); [IIS Aldini-Valeriani](#) [IIS Ettore Majorana](#); [IIS Archimede](#); [IIS Giordano Bruno](#); [IIS Alberghetti](#).

**4. Computer Science and Telecommunications:** Prepares students to enter the world of communications and information technology, understanding the regulations and technologies used.  
[IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti](#); [IIS Aldini Valeriani](#); [IIS Alberghetti](#); [IIS Montessori- Da Vinci](#).

**5. Graphics and Communication:** For entering the world of communication, both personal and mass media, and understanding how it develops through graphics, multimedia languages, and new technologies.  
[IIS Aldini-Valeriani](#)

**6. Chemistry, Materials, and Biotechnology:** Teaches how to manage chemical-biological processes used in research, pharmaceuticals, food, environmental, dyeing, and leather treatment sectors.  
[IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti](#); [IIS Ettore Majorana](#); [IIS Scarabelli-Ghini](#)

**7. Fashion System:** Prepares professionals in the fashion sector to design, create, and promote textile products, clothing, and footwear.  
[IIS Malpighi](#).

**8. Agricultural, Agro-food, and Agro-industrial:** Teaches management of production and transformation processes for agricultural, agro-food, and agro-industrial products, combining tradition and technological innovation.  
[IIS Serpieri](#); [IIS Scarabelli-Ghini](#).

**9. Construction, Environment, and Territory:** Prepares students for careers in construction, environmental protection, and workplace safety.  
[IIS Crescenzi- Pacinotti - Sirani](#); [IIS Keynes](#), [IIS Archimede](#).

## PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES

Professional Institutes in Italy offer eleven study courses, a new organisational and educational model with enhanced laboratory activities. They train students for trades, crafts, and professions. Professional Institutes are focused on developing skills and competencies relevant to the job market, with a greater emphasis on practical-laboratory activities compared to theoretical ones. The professional education paths include a two-year unitary period followed by a three-year course aimed at deepening the student's education according to the specific disciplines of the chosen study path. Professional institutes are characterised by eleven study courses:

**1. Agriculture, Rural Development, Enhancement of Local Products, and Management of Forest and Mountain Resources**  
[IIS Serpieri](#); [IIS Scarabelli-Ghini](#);

**2. Commercial Fishing and Aquaculture** (new introduction)

**3. Industry and Craftsmanship for Made in Italy**  
[IIS Aldini-Valeriani](#); [IPSAS Aldrovandi Rubbiani](#); [IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti](#); [IIS Alberghetti](#);

#### 4. Maintenance and Technical Assistance

[IIS Belluzzi Fioravanti](#); [IIS Aldini-Valeriani](#); [IIS Malpighi](#); [IIS Giordano Bruno](#), [IIS Alberghetti](#), [IIS Caduti della Direttissima](#);

#### 5. Water Management and Environmental Remediation (new introduction)

[IIS Serpieri](#);

#### 6. Commercial Services

[IPSAS Aldrovandi Rubbiani](#) e [IIS Manfredi Tanari](#); [IIS Giordano Bruno](#); [IIS Paolini-Cassiano da Imola](#); [IIS Fantini](#);

#### 7. Food and Hospitality Services

[IPSAR Veronelli](#), [IIS Bartolomeo Scappi](#); [IIS Montessori- Da Vinci](#);

#### 8. Cultural and Performing Arts Services (new introduction)

#### 9. Health and Social Care Services

[IIS Crescenzi- Pacinotti - Sirani](#); [IIS Paolini-Cassiano da Imola](#);

#### 10. Auxiliary Arts of Health Professions: Dental Technician

[IIS Malpighi](#);

#### 11. Auxiliary Arts of Health Professions: Optician (not present in the area)

Some Professional Institutes and Training Entities offer the possibility of obtaining a three- or four-year vocational qualification (IeFP) valid nationwide. IeFP programs are designed based on the educational and professional needs of different areas to provide students with skills aligned with the demands of local businesses, facilitating entry into the job market.

#### IeFP Programs in the Province of Bologna

- **Administrative- Secretary Operator** - [Bologne](#), [San Giovanni in Persiceto](#)
- **Agricultural operator** - [Sasso Marconi](#), [Loiano](#)
- **Sales operator** - [Bologne](#), [Imola](#)
- **Catering operator** - [Castel San Pietro Terme](#), [Crespellano di Valsamoggia](#)
- **Tourism promotion and reception Operator** - [Castel San Pietro Terme](#)
- **Agro-food Processing Operator** - [Sasso Marconi](#), [Loiano](#)
- **Printing- Graphics Operator** - [Bologna](#) ([Via Jacopo della Quercia 1](#), [Via Bassanelli 9/11](#))
- **Electrical Systems Operator** - [Bologne](#), [Crevalcore](#), [Imola](#)
- **Mechanical Operator** - [Bologna](#) ([via G.D. Cassini 3](#), [Via Bassanelli 9/11](#), [Via Jacopo della Quercia 1](#)) [Crevalcore](#), [Imola](#)
- **Mechatronic Auto Repair Operator** - [Bologna](#)
- **Dairy Processing Technician** - [Sasso Marconi](#), [Loiano](#)
- **Vegetable Processing Technician** - [Sasso Marconi](#), [Loiano](#)



For more information on **Higher Education Institutes** (High Schools, Technical Institutes, and Professional Institutes), visit the following sites:

<https://guidascuolesuperiori.cittametropolitana.bo.it/https://tinyurl.com/bdyv4p7r>

<https://tinyurl.com/bdyv4p7r>

*In this document the personal pronoun “singular they” has been used for simplification purposes and is intended as inclusive for all people.*





