

## Can I enroll the child to school during the school year?

If on the day of arrival to Poland the child in a calendar year will complete the age of 7 years - yes.

Children under 7 years of age are not subject to compulsory schooling. However, if the child is 6 years of age – enroll them to the reception class.

## Textbooks

Since 2015, there has been operating the "Free Textbook" program, under which textbooks are gradually becoming free. So far books are free in the first four years of primary school and the first year of junior high school.

As a parent or legal guardian you borrow them from the school library at the beginning of the school year. If a child destroys or loses them a parent has to pay for the books.



## The organization of the school year

The school year is divided into two semesters.

### First semester

(from 1<sup>st</sup> September to the winter holidays)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> September

- the beginning of the school year (classes are not conducted)

#### 14<sup>th</sup> October

- Day of National Education (Teacher's Day)

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> December - 2<sup>nd</sup> January

- Christmas break

#### 14 consecutive days between 14<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> February - winter holidays

### Second semester

(from the winter break to the last Friday of June)

#### the period between Holy Thursday and Tuesday after Easter

- spring break

#### the end of the school year

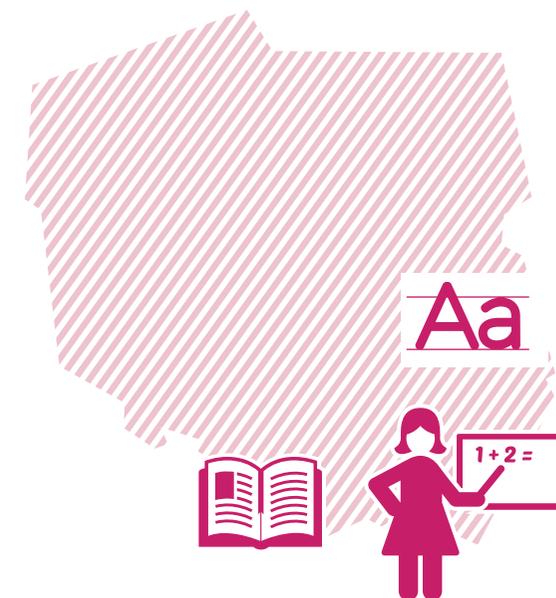
- the last Friday of June

#### the period between the last Friday of June and 31<sup>st</sup> August – summer holidays



## RULE OF LAW INSTITUTE FOUNDATION

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# THE COMPULSORY EDUCATION



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## Safe Harbour

**„Everyone shall have the right to education.  
Education to 18 years of age  
shall be compulsory.**

Article 70 of The Constitution of the Republic of Poland

According to the law, this obligation constitutes in the year in which the child turns 7 years of age. The obligation expires when the child completes their education in junior high school or if they turn the age of 18 before finishing junior high school.

### Compulsory education

„Zerówka” – reception class (6 years old)



**Primary school** (7 – 13 years old)



**Junior high school**  
( 13 – 16 years old up to 18 years old)

Education in secondary school is voluntary.

A 6-year old child has the right to start education in the first grade of primary school, if they attended reception class in the school year preceding the school year in which they have to start learning at school.

If a 6-year old child did not attend reception class, parents may also enroll them to the first class. However, in this case it is necessary to get an opinion from a psychologist about the possibility to start primary school.

## Do you have to enroll a child in school?

As a rule, yes.

In Poland, each child has the right and obligation to attend school. It happens that parents take this responsibility for themselves and they want the child to get tuition at home instead of going to school. If a parent or guardian want to teach a child at home, they have to meet several conditions.

## What documents you have to submit so your child can learn at home?

- ➔ application of parents or legal guardians to the principal of: kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, secondary school
- ➔ attachments to the application
  - opinion from the pedagogical-psychological clinic
  - parents statement that they will provide the child with learning environment at home
  - the commitment of parents to the child’s accession to the annual classification exams
- ➔ the principal’s decision

After receiving a positive opinion the child can start learning at home. Before the end of each school year, student exercising their right to education at home has to pass the exams in front of a special committee.

## What happens, if your child does not go to school?

If the child does not attend school and does not have access to homeschooling you should reckon with the consequences - a parent or legal guardian of a person under 18 years of age may receive a fine up to 50,000 PLN, until the obligation is fulfilled.

Failure to meet this obligation may be even associated with the withdrawal of parental rights.

## What school to enroll the child?

When it comes to public primary and junior high schools, a so called zoning rule applies - the children are enrolled to school in accordance to their place of residence (this is the mail criterion, but not the only one).

Children from particular region are guaranteed a place at school.

Other children from outside the region who want to go to the school are accepted according to the criteria specified by the school, until the limit of places is reached.