

Belarus

Demographics for Belarus

Population:	10,293,011 (July 2006 est.)
GDP (by PPP method):	US\$80.74 billion
Currency (inc code):	Belarusian ruble (BYB/BYR)
Language(s):	Belarusian, Russian, other
Internet country code:	.by

Primary and secondary education

There are about 4,500 pre-school institutions in Belarus where more than 400,000 children or two-thirds of all the children in the country are educated. Pre-school education is provided in kindergartens, nursery schools, and family-type organizations.

Besides this a new educational model has been developed in Belarus; it is an open nursery school where parents participate directly in the process of education as tutors' assistants, heads of hobby groups, sections, studios, etc.

Comprehensive secondary education is the main part of the system of continuous education. The system of comprehensive education includes the following stages: primary (four years), the 2nd level school (the 5th-9th forms), and the 3rd level school (the 10th-11th forms) which can exist either separately or within a basic (nine years) or a comprehensive (11 years) school. The education starts at the age of six. In primary schools basic skills and personal and moral development are stressed. The 2nd level school is compulsory for every child.

The 3rd level school accomplishes the compulsory education. After finishing the 2nd and the 3rd level schools a pupil takes an examination where basic schools provide a certificate and compulsory schools provide an attestation. Schools are financed from the budgets of their local authorities.

The education process is held in two state languages: Belarusian and Russian. For pupils of other nationalities there are lessons in native language, history and culture. There are also classes where all the subjects are taught in their mother tongue.

The reform of secondary education in Belarus involves a transition to 12 years of education, from which ten years will be compulsory: four years primary school (for six to ten year olds), six years basic school (10 to 16 years), and lyceum classes (16-18 years). Also according to this decision the professional component of senior education is being extended, and a new system of knowledge evaluation and transition to a five-day working week is being worked out and implemented.

Higher education

In 2002 a two-stage system of higher education (Bachelor's and Master's degrees) was accepted in Belarus. There are 42 state and 12 private institutions of higher education in Belarus universities, academies, institutes, etc., where more than 260,000 students study 230 professions. A total of 22 state universities report directly to the Ministry of Education, 20 report to other civil services.

University education lasts five to six years and after that a student takes state examinations and presents a graduation project. Those who successfully accomplish their education get a Diploma and a Bachelor's or Master's degree. The education is held in Belarusian or Russian. After acquiring a Master's or specialist Diploma one can enter a postgraduate education and get a Candidate of Sciences diploma.

Business education

The profession "Business administration" was included in the state classification in 2002. The Ministry of Education also decided to create a methodical association of universities in order to work out a new state curriculum for this profession. Part-time programs are becoming widespread in Belarus, especially those taught without interrupting one's work. Retraining and career development programs for practicing managers are also becoming more and more popular.

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