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**GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF
TURKISH
NATIONAL EDUCATION
SYSTEM**

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General Informations About Turkey

Formal Name: Republic of Turkey (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti).

Short Form: Turkey.

Term for Citizen(s): Turk(s).

Capital: Ankara.

Population: **72.561.312 (31 December 2009)**

General Informations About Turkey

Religion:

- More than 99 percent of the population is Muslim, mostly Sunni. Christianity (Greek Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic) and Judaism are the other religions in practice.

PRINCIPLES REGULATING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Turkish education system is organized on the basis of;

- Constitution of the Turkish Republic
- Laws Regulating Education and Instruction
- Government Programs
- Development Plans
- National Education Councils

PRINCIPLES REGULATING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

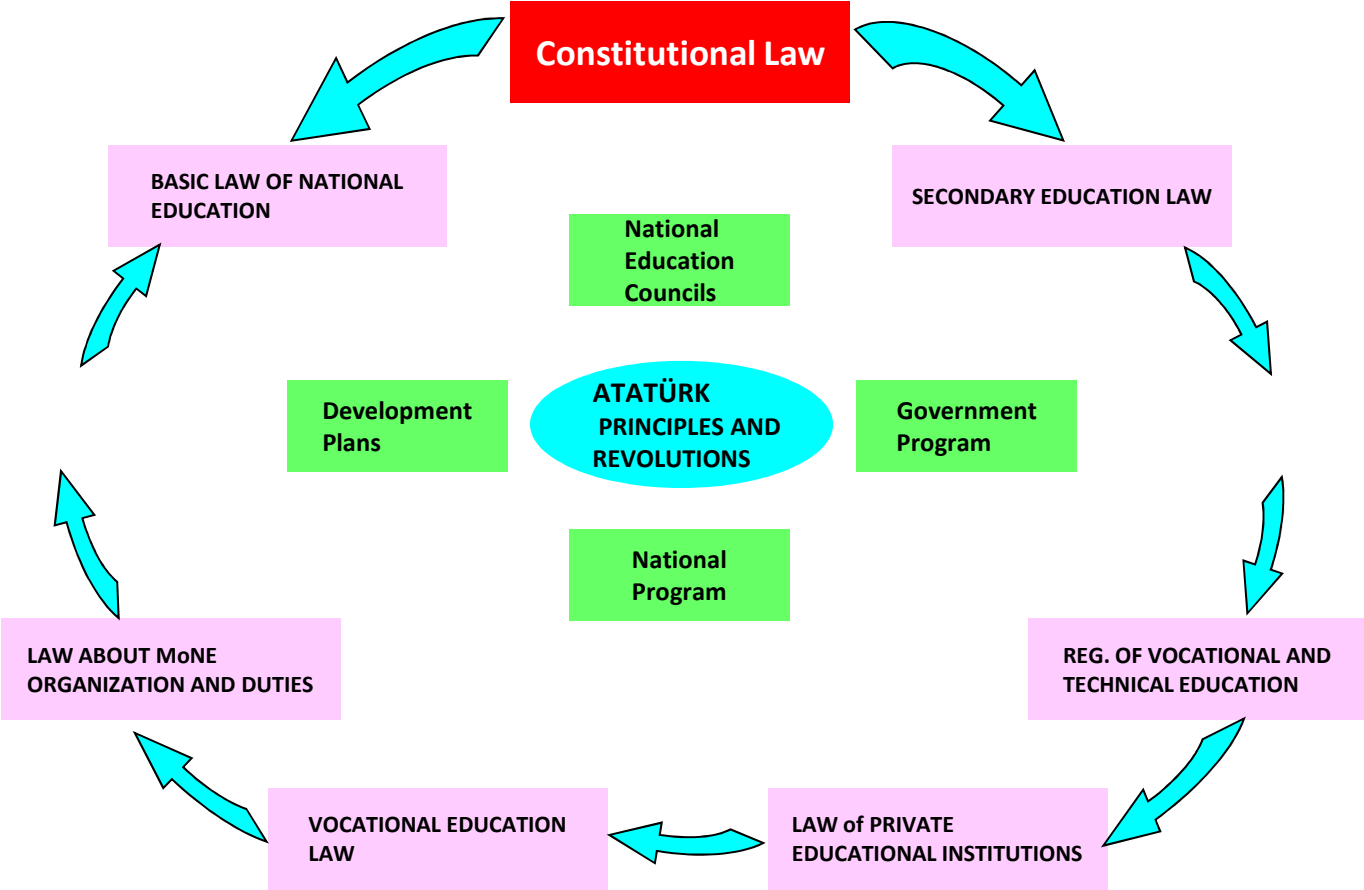
Based on these factors, education principles have been defined as follows;

- Education shall reflect national values,
- Education shall be Republican,
- Education shall be secular,
- Education shall have a scientific foundation,
- Education shall incorporate generality and equality,
- Education shall be functional and modern.

PRINCIPLES REGULATING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- The purpose of the Turkish Education System is to increase the welfare and happiness of Turkish citizens and Turkish society, to support and facilitate economic, social and cultural development in national unity and integration and to make the Turkish nation a constructive, creative and distinguished partner in modern civilization.

RULES & REGULATIONS FORMING EDUCATION SYSTEM

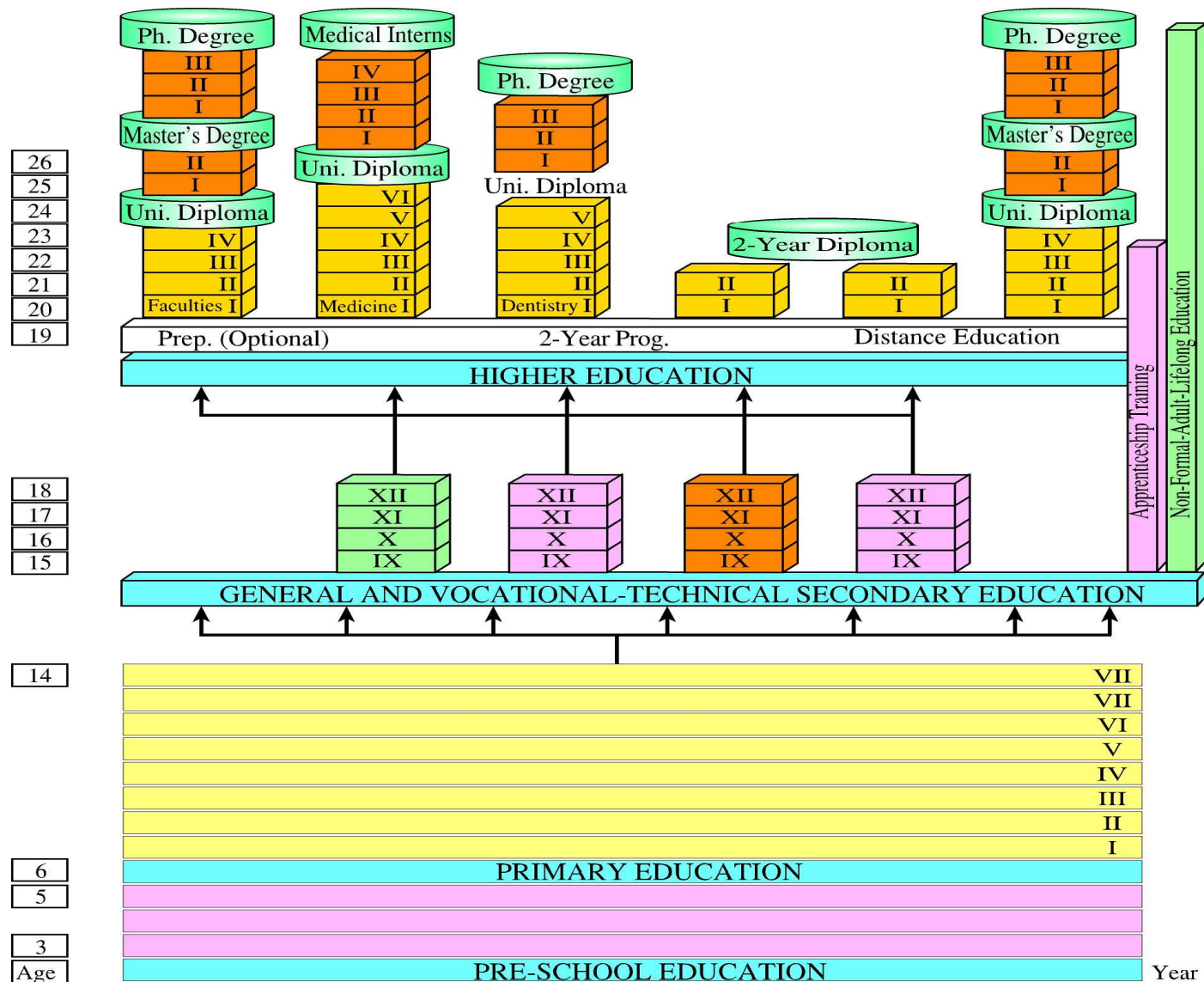


BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TURKISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

- **Generality and equality,**
- **Needs of individuals and society,**
- **Direction,**
- **Educational rights,**
- **Opportunity and equity,**
- **Continuity,**

- **Democratic education,**
- **Secularity,**
- **Scientificism,**
- **Planning,**
- **Coeducation,**
- **Cooperation of school and family,**
- **Education everywhere.**

Turkish Education System Chart



General Structure of Turkish National Education System

Turkish National Education System has two main parts:

- **Formal Education**
- **Non-formal Education**

The educational system, determined by National Education Basic Act No. 1739.

Formal Education

Formal education includes;

- pre-primary,
- primary,
- secondary and
- higher education institutions.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION -I

- Pre-primary education; involves the education of children in the age group of 3 to 5 who have not reached the age of compulsory primary education, on an optional basis.
- Pre-primary education institutions may be established as independent kindergartens or as nursery classes within a primary education school or as practice classes affiliated to other related education institutions.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION -II

- The enrolment rate of children aged between 3 and 5 in pre-primary education was 33 % (2009)
- Most of the children (around 80%) who attended pre-primary institutions were 5 years of age.
- All public pre-primary institutions are free of charge, regardless of the type of setting or the year concerned.

STATISTICS- PRE-PRIMARY

The educational year 2008/'09]

Level of Education	Schools	Number of Students	Teachers	Master Trainer
Pre-Primary Education	23.653	804.765	29.342	18.291

PRIMARY EDUCATION - I

- Primary education involves the education and training of children in the age group of 6 to 14.
- Primary education is compulsory for all male and female citizens and is free at State schools.
- Primary education institutions consist of eight-year schools where continuous education is provided and primary education diplomas are awarded to the graduating students.

EIGHT-YEAR COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Eight – Year Compulsory Education

The Law concerning eight-year compulsory primary education was adopted and put into force by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in 1997. In order to activate the 'Project for Globalisation in Education 2000' legal Regulations have been put into implementation aimed at establishing a modern system of primary education.

The main policies of the project are mentioned below :

- To reach 100 % schooling rate
- To end the integrated class application gradually
- Gradually lessen the number of student per classroom by 30
- Transition to normal education from double-shift education
- To increase the quality of primary education

PRIMARY EDUCATION - II

- The school year comprises 180 days and is divided into two semesters. It begins in the second week of September and ends in mid-June of the following year.
- At the end of the first semester, there is a two- week holiday called 'mid-school-year' holiday.
- Decisions on the exact timing of each semester are taken by the Ministry of National Education.
- Schools are open five days a week from Monday to Friday. The number of school lessons a week in basic education is 30, so that the average number of lessons a day is 6.

PRIMARY EDUCATION - III

- The curriculum is determined at national level by the Supreme Council of National Education, which is a department of the Ministry of National Education.
- In primary schools, subjects may be categorised as follows:
- Compulsory core subjects including Turkish, mathematics, life sciences, social sciences, civil and human rights, T.C. (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti, or Turkish Republic) history of reforms and Atatürk's ideology, a foreign language, religion and ethics, drawing, music, physical education, traffic and first-aid training and miscellaneous individual and collective activities;

PRIMARY EDUCATION - IV

- Optional subjects such as computer education, drama, speech and writing, a second foreign language, tourism, agriculture and animal husbandry, and local handicrafts.
- The textbooks are determined by the Supreme Council of National Education, but teachers are free to choose their teaching methods.

PRIMARY EDUCATION - V

The objective of primary education is to ensure that every Turkish child acquires the necessary knowledge, skills, behavior and habits to become a good citizen and is raised in accordance with the concept of national morals and that he/she is prepared for life and for the next level of education in accordance with his/her interests, talents and capabilities.

STATISTICS- PRIMARY

Level of Education	Schools	Number of Students	Teachers	
Primary Education	33.769	10.709.920	443.318	

STATISTICS- PRIMARY

Level of Education	School	Number of Students	Teachers
Primary education (private)	866	226.187	23.188
Private Turkish primary school	656	218.470	21.482
Private special education primary school	168	4.138	1.201
Private minority primary school	30	2.340	335
Private international primary school	10	1.204	164
Private foreign primary school	2	35	6

OPEN PRIMARY EDUCATION

It is an institution providing for citizens who graduated from primary school before but could not attend junior high school for various reasons the opportunity to complete primary education via distance education method. School, class and teacher are not available due to system.

SECONDARY EDUCATION - I

- Secondary education is provided in general, vocational and technical education institutions offering at least four years of education for those who have completed primary education.
- Education in all public secondary schools in Turkey is free of charge.

SECONDARY EDUCATION - II

General secondary education is provided in;

- General high schools,
- Anatolian high schools,
- Multi- programme high schools,
- Science high schools,
- Foreign language based high schools,
- Anatolian teacher high schools,
- Anatolian fine art high schools
- Social science high schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION - III

Vocational and technical secondary education is provided in;

- Technical high schools for boys and for girls,
- Vocational high schools for trade and tourism,
- High schools for religious education,
- High schools for special needs education, and
- Health education high schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION - IV

- In Turkey, admissions requirements depend on the particular type of school concerned.
- No examination has to be taken for admission to general high schools or multi-programme high schools.
- In the case of Anatolian high schools, science schools, Anatolian teacher high schools and Anatolian vocational and technical high schools, pupils have to sit centrally administered entrance examinations.

SECONDARY EDUCATION - V

The objectives of secondary education are to give students a common minimum overall knowledge, to familiarize them with problems of the individual and society and to seek solutions, to ensure that they gain the awareness that shall contribute to the socio-economic and cultural development of the country and to prepare them for both higher education and a profession or for life and employment, in line with their interests and attitudes.

STATISTICS -SECONDARY

Level of Education	Schools	Number of Students	Teachers
Secondary Education	8.280	3.245.322	188.973
Secondary education (public)	7.547	2.817.334	175.512
Secondary education (Private)	732	93.842	13.461

OPEN EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL

- It serves to students who could not attend formal education institutions due to various reasons or to those who are not in the formal education age. Subject passing and credit system are applied in the open education high school.
- School, class and teacher are not available due to system.

HIGHER EDUCATION -I

- Higher education comprises of the education institutions at every stage based on secondary education with a duration of at least two years.

Higher education institutions are;

- * Universities,
- * Faculties,
- * Institutes ,
- * Higher Schools ,
- * Conservatories,
- * Vocational Higher Schools ,
- * Research and Application Centers.

HIGHER EDUCATION -II

- Admissions to higher education are arranged by means of University Entrance Examinations (LGS and LYS) organised annually by Student Selection and Placement Centre (ÖSYM)
- Students with good grades in the LGS and LYS qualify for admission to four-year undergraduate programmes. When evaluating the results of the examination, the performance of students in secondary education is taken into consideration.

HIGHER EDUCATION -III

Higher education consists of four main levels of education:

- Associate Degree : vocational high schools
- Bachelor's Degree : schools and faculties
- Master's Degree : graduate schools
- Doctoral Degree : graduate schools

HIGHER EDUCATION -IV

Associate Degree;

- Designed to provide practice-oriented technical education,
- 2 years of study.

HIGHER EDUCATION -V

Bachelor's Degree include;

- Faculties and schools which provide;
 - 4 years Bachelor's degree study
 - 5 years Dentistry and Veterinary Studies
 - 6 years Medicine

HIGHER EDUCATION -VI

Master's Degree Pre-requirities;

- Bachelor's Degree,
- Examination for Graduate Studies, (ALES)
- Interviews and reference letters
- Good GPA is an advantage

HIGHER EDUCATION -VII

Doctoral Degree takes different titles for different academic fields:

- Ph.D. (Doctorate),
- “proficiency in Fine Arts”
- “specialization in Medicine (MD)”

Admissions for doctoral Degrees;

- Master's degree
- An exam (oral and/or written) organised by graduate schools
- Examination for Graduate Studies (ALES) organised by ÖSYM
- Certified foreign language competency

HIGHER EDUCATION -VIII

Higher Education Council (YÖK)

- Established in 1981.

Functions:

- to coordinate the activities of teaching, education and scientific research
- to ensure the establishment and development of universities
- effective allocation of resources among Universities

HIGHER EDUCATION -IX

- Numbers of Universities in Turkey : 146
- 95 of them public/state university, 51 of them foundations based.
- Top 10 universities in Turkey are;

Ortadoğu Teknik Üniversitesi (ODTÜ)
Boğaziçi Üniversitesi
Hacettepe Üniversitesi
İstanbul Teknik Üniversitesi
Ankara Üniversitesi

İstanbul Üniversitesi
Ege Üniversitesi
Gazi Üniversitesi
Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi
Marmara Üniversitesi

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION- I

It involves all educational and training activities organized for the individuals that have never participated in formal education system or left school in one of the levels of this system.

In our country non-formal education is realized by;

- Public Education/Training
- Apprenticeship Education
- Distance Education

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION -II

Public Education

- Educational activities organised out of formal educational institutes are carried out mostly in 920 adult education centres.
- These centres offer the following educational services to citizens of various ages and education levels;
 - ◆ Literacy training courses,
 - ◆ Vocational courses,
 - ◆ Socio-cultural courses,
 - ◆ Socio-cultural workshops

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION -III

Apprenticeship Training

- Apprenticeship training includes the training of children and young people in secondary education age, who completed primary education but cannot go on their education in an upper level or who are outside the formal education because of various reasons.
- The ones who completed 14 and not older than 19, of whom finished at least primary school, can go on with the apprenticeship training.
- Training in 89 branches of profession are offered in all provinces, in accordance with the law.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION -IV

Distance Education

- Distance education services are offered in order to provide equal learning opportunities for all and support the education provided in primary , secondary and tertiary education institutions.
- Open primary school (OPE), open high school (OHS) and vocational and technical open school are included in distance education services.

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION -V

- To teach citizens to read and write and to provide them with the possibility of continuous education so that they may complete their deficient education,
- To provide them with the opportunity of education that shall help them in adjusting to scientific, technological, economic, social and cultural developments,
- To provide an education that serves to protect, develop, remote and assimilate the values of our national culture,
- *To provide opportunities for citizens in non-formal education to gain a profession in accordance with the employment policies and in line with the development of the economy,

TEACHER TRAINING

- The teacher training programs implemented in tertiary education consist of 62,5% subject area, 12,5% general culture, 25% pedagogic formation.
- Furthermore, every teacher candidate takes practice lessons in the schools around his/her faculty.
- After the graduation, they work as trainees for one or two years according to their success.
- In addition to this, they are trained in courses organised by National Education Department of In-service Training.

Appointment of Teachers

- Ministry of National Education determines the number of teachers who will be employed every year and it is announced by mass-media, and the appointments are carried out according to the applications .
- To become a teacher passing and getting enough point from the teacher selection exam is necessary.

MINORITY SCHOOLS -I

Under the frames of the Lausanne Peace Treaty signed on July 24, 1923, the definition of the minorities was made as "Non-Muslims" and their rights were granted as follows:

- The freedoms of living, religious beliefs and migration
- The rights of legal and political equality
- Using the mother tongue in the courts
- Opening their own schools or similar institutions
- The holding of religious ceremonies
- Minorities have equal legal rights under the Constitution, which describes Turkey as a secular state and guarantees "freedom of conscience, religious faith and opinion" to all citizens, each of whom is legally a Turkish citizen.

MINORITY SCHOOLS –II

- Minority Schools were established by Rums, Ermenians and Musevi's (Jewish's) in Turkey.
- These schools are under the guarantee of Lausanne Peace Treaty.
- Only minority pupils can go to these schools. Minorities are the citizens of Turkey at the same time.
- Minority Schools provide pre-primary, primary and secondary education to their children.



Thank you