Your child at a Polish school

Education at public schools is free – for foreigners' children on the same terms as for Polish children. Find out how to enrol your child and what support they are entitled to.

WHO HAS TO BE IN EDUCATION?

Age 6
Reception year (zerówka) – one year of pre-school preparation is compulsory.

From age 7
Primary school – compulsory until your child finishes it (at the latest until 18).

Up to 18
Compulsory education – secondary school or another form of learning.

1 Find your local school

city / municipal office

Every address is assigned to a primary school (szkoła obwodowa).

- Ask at the city or municipal office, or check the city's website.
- Your local school must accept your child – also during the school year.
- You can choose another school, but then its head teacher decides on admission.

2 Prepare documents

school office

Bring what you have – missing documents don't prevent enrolment.

- Your child's passport or other ID.
- Certificates or reports from the previous school – no recognition procedure needed.
- No documents? Your child will be admitted after an interview, in their own language if needed.

IT'S COMPULSORY

If a school-age child doesn't attend school, the municipality can fine the parents.

CHILDREN FROM UKRAINE

The 800+ benefit is paid when the child attends a Polish school. Online learning at a Ukrainian school alone is not enough.

Continued overleaf →

3 Talk to the head teacher

head teacher

The head teacher decides which class your child joins.

- They consider your child's age, documents from the previous school and your opinion.
- Say how well your child speaks Polish and ask about support (step 4).

4 Support for your child

free of charge

Pupils with limited Polish are entitled to help.

- Extra Polish lessons – at least 2 hours a week.
- Catch-up classes in subjects your child finds difficult.
- Preparatory class (oddział przygotowawczy) – a small class for children just learning Polish (usually for a year; not at every school).
- An intercultural assistant who speaks your child's language (if the school has one).
- Adjustments in the 8th-grade exam and the matura, e.g. a bilingual dictionary and extra time.

5 Stay in touch with the school

e-register

The school expects parents to know how their child is doing.

- Set up an account in the electronic register (e.g. Librus, Vulcan) – you'll see grades, attendance and messages from teachers.
- The class teacher (wychowawca) is your first contact for everything.
- Attend parents' meetings and excuse your child's absences.

Problems enrolling your child?

We'll help – free consultations at Fundacja EGIDA.

Where ul. Ozimska 14-16 lok. 314 A, 45-057 Opole

E-mail sekretariat@fundacjaegida.eu

General information, legal status as of October 2026. Not a substitute for legal advice.

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