



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - TANZANIA

In Brief	<p>Population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 67.4 million● Size: 945,087km² <p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 77.89% <p>Youth Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 85.76% <p>Female Youth Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 73.09 % <p>Years of Public School: 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Primary - 7● Secondary ordinary level - 4● Secondary advanced level - 2 <p>Language of Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Primary School - Kiswahili● Secondary School - English High School Leaving Exams: <p>National Curriculum: Yes</p> <p>Date of Exams: May</p>
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<p>Education Overview</p>	<p>Free Primary and Secondary O-Level Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary education is a right for all children in Tanzania, so it is fee-free and compulsory. The government is the largest primary education provider, accounting for 97% of enrolment in 2012. • Free primary and Secondary Ordinary Level education in schools was mandated in the Education and Training Policy issued in 2014, and the government started implementing the Policy in November 2015. However, while most fees, including exam fees, are covered, some indirect costs remain, such as uniforms and stationery costs. Private pre-school is also available. • The percentage of students advancing to O-Levels has dropped dramatically since 2000, while the number of students attending universities has increased more than fivefold. <p>Pupil/Teacher Ratio: 51:1</p> <p>Completing primary school: 68.7% (public primary education is free apart from uniforms, stationery, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to secondary Ordinary Level studies: 43.12 % in 2019 • Completion of secondary Ordinary Level studies: 33.17% in 2020 • Transition to secondary Advanced Level studies: 6.87% in 2020 • Completion of Advanced Level secondary studies: 10.6% • Achieving passing grades on A' Level exams: 93 % • Number taking leaving exams: 385,767 (2017) • Universities: 31 • Other institutions of higher learning: 17 • Number of university students: 220,238 (2020) (highest number of enrolled students in tertiary education since the academic year 2017/2018).
<p>School System</p>	<p>Tanzanian education can be described as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two years of optional preschool from age 5 or 6 (100% private provision) • seven years in basic primary education (for children aged 7-13) • four years of lower secondary Ordinary Level education (ages 14-17) • two years of secondary Advanced Level education (ages 18-20) <p>NB: The basic primary level classes are known as Standards, while the secondary ones are known as Forms.</p> <p>Progression from one level to another in public schools is not automatic as it depends on national examination results, overseen by the government at the end of Standard 7, Form 4, and Form 6 through the National Examinations</p>

Council of Tanzania (NECTA). The Standard 7 exam allows the rationing of the limited space available by pushing out children who do not achieve the required marks. Although it is possible to retake a year, many children from poor families lose the incentive to continue and do not do so.

Grading systems: The grading system in Tanzania for the Form 4 and Form 6 final results is based on exam letter grades, grading scales (points and divisions), and schools' continuous assessment.

1. Letter Grades/points awarded

a. Form 6

Grade	Marks	Points	Remarks
A	80 - 100	1	Excellent
B	70 - 79	2	Very Good
C	60 - 69	3	Good
D	50 - 59	4	Average
E	40 - 49	5	Satisfactory
S	35- 39	6	Satisfactory
F	0 - 34	7	Fail

b. Form 4

Grade	Marks	Points	Remark
A	75-100	1	Excellent
B	65-74	2	Very Good
C	45-64	3	Good
D	30-44	4	Satisfactory
F	0-29	5	Fail

2. Cumulative Grade Scale

Students are ranked into different Divisions based on the total number of points for the seven highest scores for Form 4 and the three principal subjects for Form 6. The distribution of the cumulative points into the different Divisions is as follows:

Division	Form 4 Total Points	Form 6 Total Points	Remark
I	7-17	3-9	Excellent
II	18-21	10-12	Very Good
III	22-25	13-17	Good
IV	26-33	18-19	Satisfactory
0	34-35	20-21	Fail

In addition to the examinations taken at the end of Forms 4 and 6, continuous assessment tests at school account for 30% of the awarded marks for each subject.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Primary School Leaving Examination marks the end of the primary education cycle and is the basis for pupils to join the secondary education cycle. At the secondary level, there are four kinds of schools available.

1. **Government schools:** This is the largest group. Most are day schools, where students must commute to school and back home, although a few others offer hostels for boarding. There are no tuition fees from Form 1 to Form 4. High school (Forms 5 and 6) has a minimal tuition fee of just about \$13.00 for day scholars and about \$33.00 for boarding students. Due to low tuition fees, government-owned schools are Tanzania's major secondary education providers. However, due to low running costs, government-owned schools employ unqualified teachers, and school services are usually poor.
2. **Government "special schools":** Besides the local public schools in every ward, the Tanzanian government has established 8 "special schools." These schools select the students who performed highly in their primary school leaving exams to join their Ordinary Level program and the best students in Form 4 to join their Advanced Level (Form 5 and 6) program.
3. **Privately owned NECTA schools:** These are owned by individuals, missionary groups, or private organizations. Most are boarding schools, while others provide both boarding and day options. These are better quality than public schools and have mid-fee ranges, mostly \$500 to \$3,000 per annum. They tend to attract Tanzanian middle-class families and almost always beat the local and special

	<p>government schools in final exam results.</p> <p>4. International private schools: These boarding and day schools offer the best quality of education in Tanzania. They offer international curricula such as International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International. These schools tend to attract wealthy Tanzanians, although a few scholarships are available to students from low-income families.</p>
<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>POST-O-LEVELS</p> <p>Higher education and training in Tanzania encompass post-ordinary Level secondary education, culminating in conferring certificates, diplomas, and degrees. Even students who do not pursue advanced-level studies can engage in higher education.</p> <p>The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) serves as the oversight body for educational provisions across all universities in the country. The commission's vision is centered on maintaining a robust system capable of providing higher education that aligns with national social, economic, and cultural development on a global scale. University education in Tanzania typically spans three years for liberal arts and business courses, four years for science and engineering courses, and five years for medical programs.</p> <p>Tanzania's higher education landscape comprises public and private institutions, including universities, university colleges, and vocational/technical training institutes. All public higher education institutions operate as semi-autonomous entities subsidized by the government. Currently, the country hosts 31 universities (13 public and 18 private) and 17 university colleges (5 public and 12 private), all subject to regulatory oversight by the TCU.</p> <p>Additionally, Tanzania is home to the Open University of Tanzania, which was established in 1995 to facilitate distance education.</p> <p>Approximately 1% of Tanzanian citizens within the relevant age bracket are enrolled in higher education, having met all academic requirements. The female-to-male ratio for gross enrollment in tertiary education stands at 0.82:1. Furthermore, the literacy rate among individuals aged 15-24 is 77%.</p>

Issues with the Education System

Under-resourced schools in Tanzania face numerous challenges that hinder the quality of education provided. Most government schools encounter difficulties in creating conducive learning environments for students. Key issues include a lack of essential resources such as books in libraries, laboratories for science subjects, and insufficient classrooms and desks, particularly in rural areas. This often results in schools operating on a shift system, with some students attending in the morning and others in the afternoon. The prevalence of poverty in rural Tanzania contributes to a significant disparity in access to and the quality of education, with urban areas consistently achieving higher educational outcomes.

Teaching methods exhibit gender bias, leading to a performance gap between male and female students. A notable concern is the emphasis on rote learning for national examinations rather than fostering critical thinking skills.

A national survey on violence against children highlighted that many teachers exceed legally sanctioned limits for corporal punishment. Shockingly, over 50 percent of interviewed boys and girls reported physical abuse, including punching, kicking, or whipping by teachers.

Rapid enrollment expansion has resulted in larger class sizes, reaching an average of 66 pupils per government primary school classroom in 2011. The Mwanza Region faces particularly severe challenges, with an average of 89 pupils per classroom and instances where classrooms accommodate up to 200 children, primarily in lower-grade levels.

Critical shortages in textbooks, desks, chairs, toilets, water supply, and hand-washing facilities persist in most schools. On average, there is one textbook for every five students, and the pupil/latrine ratio is far below the standard, affecting girls' attendance and performance. Many girls drop out due to pregnancies, prompting the Tanzanian government to enact policies allowing pregnant girls and mothers to return to public schools.

Despite government funding for teacher training programs, schools often lack a sufficient number of adequately educated teachers.

Poor living conditions and low salaries further contribute to teacher dissatisfaction and a sense of discouragement.

Academic Calendar	<p>The academic year for both public and private primary and lower secondary schools spans from January to December and is organized into four terms. Advanced Level Form 5 and 6 students commence their academic year in June and conclude in May.</p> <p>For most international schools, specifically those following the International Baccalaureate diploma and Cambridge curriculum, the academic year extends from August to June. This is succeeded by a two-month summer holiday.</p> <p>Following high school completion, students typically enroll in private and government universities and colleges. These institutions often admit students in late October, and the academic year for universities extends from late October to September of the following year.</p>
SAT Test Centers	<p>The International School of Moshi (ISM) and the International School of Tanganyika (IST).</p>
ACT Test Centers	<p>United World College East Africa (UWC), Heaven of Peace Academy (HOPAC), and The University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).</p>
IELTS/TOEFL	<p>English tests are not needed for admission to Tanzanian universities, as the students have English for their Ordinary and Advanced Levels as the medium of instruction.</p>
Best Time for Admissions Officers to Visit	<p>Tanzanian students finish their Advanced Level (Form 6) final exams in May and then choose to participate in national service for three months until September. The exam results are released in mid-July.</p> <p>The best time for admissions officers from abroad to visit secondary schools in Tanzania is late August/early September, the year before students graduate.</p>
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