



EDUCATION FACT SHEET - TOGO

<p>In Brief</p>	<p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9053799 <p>National Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kabyè ● Ewé <p>Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 66.53% <p>Youth Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 84% <p>Female Youth Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 78.37% <p>National Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● French Curriculum <p>Primary Language of Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● French <p>High School Leaving Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baccalaureate <p>Date of Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June-July
<p>School System</p>	<p>French Colonial Influence: Progressive Leaving Exams</p> <p>The structure and functioning of the Togolese educational system remains almost unchanged from the school model inherited from the colonial French. The current Togolese school system is organized by the education reform of 1975. Thus, the levels and types of formal education are still the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary education Includes pre-primary for children entering at the age of three years for two years. Pre-primary education is not compulsory. Children enter primary school at the age of five for six years. The certificate of graduation from primary education (CEPD) marks the end of primary school and provides access to middle school. ● Junior secondary education Also known as middle school, it runs for four years. The graduation certificate from junior secondary (BEPC) marks the end of this segment and allows students to access high school.

- **Senior secondary education**

Also known as high school, it runs three years for admitted students. At the end of the second year, students sit for an examination called the School-Leaving Certificate, part 1 (BAC1 or "Probatoire" in French). This certificate is required to access the US system's terminal class (grade 12). This class concludes with the School-Leaving Certificate, part 2 (BAC2=French Baccalaureate), allowing access to university education. Junior and senior secondary education have two major streams: general or technical/ vocational education. Primary and secondary education have three terms totaling 40 weeks of teaching activities.

- **Institutes of higher education**

Receives senior secondary education students who passed the School-Leaving Certificate, part 2. This level of education includes studies in universities, specialized institutes of the government, and university education abroad. The studies vary between three and eight years. In higher education (university education), the academic year is divided into two semesters of 16 weeks each.

Budgetary restrictions have led to increased dropouts in technical and vocational education. Higher education actors often manage the training of primary and secondary teachers. In addition to the ministries of education and training, many government departments organize the training of their future employees.

Education Administration

In Togo, education is administered by The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and Literacy, the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, and the Ministry of Higher Education.

Six regional directorates oversee Togo's educational system. Their responsibility is to manage primary and secondary education at the regional level.

The regional directorates are decentralized structures responsible for all national education and research matters. They have authority over establishments of all kinds and all degrees, over the inspectors, and all other structures dependent on Togo's Department of Education and Research.

Some regional education centers are responsible for supervising teachers from the three levels. Each district educational inspector handles administrative issues and teacher examinations. The school director is the inspector and school liaison and carries great authority regarding supervision and educational control. The regional directorates give reports of their work to their respective ministries.

Free Access to Primary School

	<p>The abolition of school fees in primary schools in 2008 was a welcome development in the country, especially for parents and children who used to pay at least US\$4 per year per child for school fees, which had impeded the goal of education for all.</p> <p>The United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has partnered with the national government and local agencies to ensure free access by children to free and quality education at the primary level as it continues to provide financial and technical support. To benefit every child in Togo, UNICEF also financed a study on the impact of abolishing school fees, with results and recommendations that can be used to help.</p>
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>While the Togolese government has implemented measures to improve the education system, numerous issues have slowed their implementation. These issues are social, financial, and political.</p> <p>The high poverty level in Togo is one of the fundamental factors that have affected the success of the global goal of “Education for All” (EFA). Free primary education has, over the years, increased the number of children going to school. However, there is a significant drop in completion and enrollment levels in high schools. The same goes for the number of students who successfully transition from high school to university. This significant drop is because the government can fund only a small portion of high school and university tuition fees. The rest is left for school management to find avenues to run the school, for instance, by requesting parents of the students to contribute money that proves to be unaffordable for most of them.</p> <p>Additionally, in drought-stricken areas, response to hunger through ad-hoc food relief is often costly for the government to deliver and leaves little to no flexibility in extending aid beyond food consumption. Even with the growth of the education system in Togo, there are major disparities in resources allocated to the schools. For one, the high teacher-to-student ratio significantly affects the performance of both the teacher and the student, especially in primary and secondary schools. Most teachers lose morale due to the overwhelming number of children in classes.</p> <p>Poor access to technological learning aids like laptops and e-books is pervasive due to a lack of electricity and internet connectivity.</p> <p>Gender disparity also plays a role in access to education in Togo. Girls in most marginalized areas of the country may be forced to leave school due to early marriage. Some communities view girls as a source of “income,” and others are married off due to the patriarchal values that govern their communities. Cases of female genital mutilation go in tandem with the early marriages. Even with efforts from the government and nonprofit organizations, this issue still stymies the system.</p>

<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education releases the academic calendar for high schools annually. It is mainly limited to the institutions that follow the national curriculum. A typical public high school has three terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First term: September to December - 14 weeks, two-week break (Christmas) ● Second term: January to March - 14 weeks, one-week break (Easter) ● Third term: April to June - 12 weeks.
<p>SAT Test Centers</p>	<p>Since the language of instruction in Togo is French, these tests are required for Togolese students applying to the US or UK. However, some US universities and other countries require a proficiency certificate in the language of instruction.</p> <p>SAT and TOEFL are the most popular exams, whereas IELTS is rarely taken and does not have a test center in Togo.</p> <p>The TOEFL centers in Togo are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English Language Center (PBT) ● ESAG NDE (iBT) <p>SAT, TOEFL, and GRE are offered in the central city Lomé.</p> <p>The tests are paper and internet-based: It is very challenging for francophone students to meet test score requirements. However, they adjust quickly to the US system and perform well in their programs.</p>
<p>Best time for Admissions Officers to Visit</p>	<p>January, February, March, and April (except during the Easter holiday).</p>
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Sources:

- World Bank
- http://education.gouv.tg/sites/default/files/documents/la_situation_de_leducation_en_2014.pdf
- Education in Togo: From Its Creation until the Period of Socio-Political and Economic Crisis of 1990, Pouzon-Ani BAFEI (Corresponding author), School of Public Economics and Administration, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics 369 Zhong Shan Bei

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