



## EDUCATION FACT SHEET - KENYA

<p><b>Country in Brief</b></p>	<p><b>Population:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 55.1 Million people</li> </ul> <p><b>National Languages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● English and Kiswahili</li> </ul> <p><b>Literacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General overview 82.62%</li> <li>● Youth Literacy: 88.7%</li> <li>● Female Youth Literacy: 71% (ages 15 years to 24 years)</li> </ul> <p><b>National Curriculum:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) 2-6-6-3</li> </ul> <p><b>Years of Public School:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 17 years</li> </ul> <p><b>Primary Language of Instruction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● English, Kiswahili</li> </ul> <p><b>High School Leaving Exams:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E) - due to the new CBC, the last year will be 2027; the government has yet to announce how it will be replaced</li> </ul> <p><b>Date of Exams:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● October 23, 2023 - November 24, 2023</li> </ul>
<p><b>Academic Calendar</b></p>	<p><b>Primary/Secondary: 12 Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Starting month: <b>January</b></li> <li>● Ending month: <b>October</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Public Tertiary: 4 years - due to the new CBC, students finishing high school in 2028 and beyond will only have 3 years of tertiary education</b></p> <p>Starting month: <b>January</b></p> <p>Ending month: <b>November</b></p> <p><b>Private Tertiary: 4 years</b></p> <p>Starting month: <b>August/September</b></p> <p>Ending month: <b>May/june</b></p>
<p><b>Education Overview</b></p>	<p>To achieve SDG no 4; Quality Education, Kenya provides free primary school education (FPE) and subsidies for secondary education. In 2018, the government introduced a new curriculum known as the Competency-Based curriculum (CBC) aimed at promoting holistic development and skills acquisition. The CBC seeks to shift the focus from rote memorization to more practical and competency-based approaches.</p>

	<p>School enrollment, primary (%gross)in Kenya was reported at 77% in 2019, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources. Transition rates from primary to secondary education have improved over the years , although challenges still exist. Efforts are being made to increase access to secondary education and reduce the dropout rates. According to a Daily Nation survey, in 2021, the primary to secondary transition rates stood at 91% in 2020, a rise of 5.5 per cent.</p> <p>The tertiary institutions system has changed. On May 3,2023, President William Ruto launched a new higher education student funding model. The new financing model provides students with grants and loans based on their financial needs. It categorizes learners as vulnerable, extremely needy, needy, and less needy.</p> <p><b>SCHOLARS ABROAD</b></p> <p>UNESCO data shows Kenya has about 15000 students studying abroad. The number is expected to grow as Kenyans seek career opportunities beyond the country's borders. The British Council lists the most popular destinations for Kenyan students as the United Kingdom, USA and Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Education Expenditure 4.8% of GDP</li> <li>● Teacher: pupil Ratio, primary school 1:40(2022)</li> <li>● Teacher: student ratio, secondary school 1:40(2022)</li> <li>● Languages English(official), Kiswahili(official); many indigenous languages</li> </ul>
<b>School System</b>	<p>At the moment, Kenya has incorporated 2 curriculums. The older curriculum calls for 16 years of schooling, eight in primary school, four in high school, and four in university. The 8-4-4 system will be phased out in 2027. The new curriculum has been adopted with 2 years of preschool, 6 years of primary,6 years of secondary, and 3 years of undergraduate higher education. The new curriculum increases focus on skills instead of knowledge. Secondary students will choose from three pathways to tertiary education, with specialized subject matter in arts and sports, social science and STEM(science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)</p>
<b>Language of Instruction</b>	<p>The language of instruction in schools is English and Kiswahili. However, few international schools have adopted foreign languages such as French and German.</p>

**School Leaving Exams**

The Kenyan system is exam-based, with performance on the national primary school leaving exam (KCPE) determining the quality of secondary school for which a student qualifies, and performance on the national high school leaving exam (KCSE) determining much of a student’s future. In the case of students aspiring to Kenyan universities, the KCSE dictates both the university to which a student is admitted and the course (major) the student is eligible to study. The government usually ensures that there is at least 90% of transition to secondary schools. Students usually sit for their KCSE at form 4 and they are expected to attain C+ to transition to university. Judging by the 2022 KCSE results, there was a slight improvement in performance. There were 1,146 (0.13%) candidates who obtained an overall Grade A in the 2022 KCSE Examination compared with 1,138 (0.14%) candidates in 2021.

On the other hand, the number of candidates with minimum university entry qualification of Grade C+ and above has risen to 173,345 (19.03%) in the year 2022 KCSE Examination compared to 145,776 (17.55%) in 2021.

The number of candidates with mean grade D+ and above in the 2022 KCSE Examination is 522,588 (59.14%) compared with 442,251 (53.29%) in 2021.

Encouragingly, the number of candidates obtaining a mean grade of E in 2022 declined significantly to 30,822 (3.49%) despite the increase in candidature, compared with 46,151 (5.56%) in 2021. This clearly leads us to conclude that most of the candidates scored grades of higher quality.

**Education for Refugees in Kenya**  
**(Kakuma Refugee Camp)**

Background: Kakuma Refugee Camp Kakuma Refugee Camp was established as a temporary shelter in 1992 for several thousand “Lost Boys” from southern Sudan, but thirty years later remains the home of over 185,000 individuals from at least ten eastern and central African countries. Residents of Kakuma have constructed lives, businesses, families, and communities as best they can but their options remain constricted and subject to the oversight of the Kenyan government and international nongovernmental organizations.

**Education in Kakuma Camp**

- Finishing secondary school in Kakuma is a huge accomplishment. According to a 2017 UNHCR Report, “94% of eligible secondary school-aged children are out of school and 87% of those enrolled are over-aged.”
- Students who finish secondary school in Kakuma are already the top learners but face lack of access, funding, and opportunities to continue their education and fewer than 1% of eligible

students are able to continue their education at the tertiary level.

- Refugee student scores on KCSEs are often lower than their counterparts in Kenyan schools who have access to trained teachers, resources, and a higher quality of life.
- Between 2019-2021, the percentage of students who earned a B- or above on their KCSEs was .9%, 1.9%, and 1.4%, respectively, with 0 students from the camp earning an A in any of those years

**KCSE scores in Kakuma 2019-2021. The chart below shows how many refugee students scored A - C+ in the camp.**

Year	Total students	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+
2019	2,032	0	1	1	6	12	17
2020	2,302	0	1	7	18	17	24
2021	2,472	0	2	4	12	19	22

Below is a graph showing the difference in refugee students' performance on the KCSEs. Students who score a B or B+ in Kakuma are in a similar percentile to non-refugee students with an A outside of the camp.

**COMPARISON WITH NATIONAL PERFORMANCE IN 2021 KCSE**

GRADE	NATIONAL PERFORMANCE		CAMP PERFORMANCE	
	NUMBER SCORED	PERCENTAGE REPRESENTATION	NUMBER SCORED	PERCENTAGE REPRESENTATION
A (Plain)	1,138	0.14%	0	0.00%
A- (Minus)	5,973	0.72%	1	0.04%
B+ (Plus)	13,463	1.62%	3	0.12%
B (Plain)	25,045	3.00%	10	0.41%
B- (Minus)	39,683	4.76%	19	0.77%
C+ (plus)	59,843	7.18%	21	0.85%
C (Plain)	81,345	9.76%	51	2.07%
C- (Minus)	99,406	11.93%	95	3.86%
D+ (Plus)	116,355	13.96%	215	8.75%
D (Plain)	145,916	17.51%	480	19.53%
D- (Minus)	187,264	22.47%	849	34.54%
E	46,151	5.54%	541	22.01%
Cancelled Exams (Y)	441	0.05%	53	2.16%
Ungraded (U)		0.00%	36	1.46%
Withheld (W)		0.00%	0	0.00%
Absent (X)	11,525	1.38%	80	3.25%
Pending (P)		0.00%	4	0.16%
<b>Total Entry</b>	<b>833,548</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2458</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Available Schools**

The available schools in Kenya are categorized into public and private schools. The schools are later classified into boarding and day schools. The private schools are usually expensive and accommodate those who can afford the required fees or students who are on scholarships. The public schools are less expensive and affordable hence it can accommodate students from low income backgrounds. In high school, schools are categorized as national and extra county schools. Those who join national schools achieved higher grades in their KCPE and the average students go to extra county schools.

<b>Tertiary and University System</b>	<p>In Kenya, tertiary institutions include both technical and vocational education as well as higher education. The tertiary education system in Kenya is overseen by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology.</p> <p>Technical and vocational education in Kenya is offered through various institutions such as technical training institutes, vocational training centers, and polytechnics. These institutions offer courses and programs that equip students with practical skills for employment in various industries. Some of the popular technical and vocational courses include plumbing, electrical installation, automotive engineering, and hospitality management.</p> <p>Higher education in Kenya is offered through universities, colleges, and other tertiary institutions. There are both public and private universities in Kenya, with the main public universities being funded and managed by the government. Some of the prominent public universities in Kenya include the University of Nairobi, Moi University, and Kenyatta University.</p> <p>Private universities in Kenya are mainly run by religious organizations, corporations, or individuals. These universities offer a wide range of courses and programs in fields such as business, engineering, medicine, and humanities. Some of the well-known private universities in Kenya include Strathmore University, Daystar University, and Catholic University of Eastern Africa.</p> <p>To gain admission into universities in Kenya, students are required to have completed their secondary education and pass the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination. The KCSE results are used to determine the eligibility of students for specific courses and programs.</p> <p>In recent years, there has been a push to increase the accessibility and quality of tertiary education in Kenya. The government has implemented various initiatives such as expanding enrollment capacity in universities, promoting technical and vocational education, and providing government scholarships and loans to students.</p> <p>Public universities are plagued by overcrowding, under-staffing, deteriorating physical plants and often demoralized faculties. Both student and faculty strikes are common so much so that public university students usually expect to spend between five and six years to complete a four-year bachelor's degree.</p> <p>This has discouraged many students from joining tertiary institutions and they opt to engage in small businesses. Many students also are motivated to apply for</p>
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<p><b>Issues with the Education System</b></p>	<p>The Kenyan government has put up various interventions to provide quality Education. Despite this, many challenges in the Education system drag it down.</p> <p>For instance lack of access to quality Education in the rural areas. Many students, especially in low-income and rural areas do not have access to schools that offer a full range of academic resources, qualified teachers, adequate resources, and safe learning environments. This has resulted in lower educational outcomes and higher dropout rates.</p> <p>Poverty is a significant barrier to education in Kenya. Many families cannot afford to pay school fees, uniforms, and other expenses associated with schooling. Students who come from the drought-stricken regions such as Turkana do not get equal opportunities as those students from the cities. They have to walk longer distances to school and due to insecurity issues in their area, they undergo attacks by bandits and dangerous wild animals. Lack of enough food in the areas leads to malnourishment in students and they are unable to participate fully in class works.</p> <p>Cultural beliefs and practices have also played a key role in reducing the interventions that the government has put to provide quality education to all genders. Some cultures hinder girls' education since they view women as subordinates and their main role is cooking and taking care of children. Some girls get married off at a younger age to rich men so that they can bring wealth to the family.</p> <p>Lastly, Inadequate funding by the Kenyan Government has led to a shortage of resources, such as classrooms, textbooks, and teachers.</p>
<p><b>Academic Calendar</b></p>	<p>For the past 3 years the Academic calendar was disrupted due to covid. The terms were a bit shorter since the schools wanted to compensate for the times they lost during the COVID period. With time the calendar is coming back to normal and by January 2024 , the terms will be like they used to be.</p> <p>A typical public high school would have three terms; First Term: January to April (14 weeks and a four-day mid-term break), Second term; May to August( 14 weeks and a mid-term break halfway through the term 3) Third term: August to October (9 weeks). National exams (KCSE)and KCPE are administered from October to late November.</p> <p>For the public universities , freshmen usually join in September since that is the start of the Academic year and it ends in April.</p>

<p><b>SAT Test Centers</b></p>	<p>Nairobi:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brookhouse International School</li> <li>2. International School of Kenya</li> <li>3. Oshwal Academy</li> <li>4. Rosslyn Academy</li> <li>5. West Nairobi School</li> </ol> <p>Mombasa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Aga Khan Academy Mombasa</li> </ol> <p>Eldoret:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eldoret Polytechnic</li> </ol> <p>Kijabe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rift Valley Academy</li> </ol>
<p><b>ACT Test Centers</b></p>	<p>Nairobi:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maxwell Adventist Academy</li> <li>2. Oshwal Academy Nairobi</li> <li>3. Rosslyn Academy</li> </ol>
<p><b>IELTS/TOEFL</b></p>	<p>This usually depends on the country that the student is applying to study at. Sometimes the tests are compulsory or become optional.</p>
<p><b>Best time for Admissions Officers to Visit</b></p>	<p>The best time to visit admission offices is usually in first and second term because the students are engaged in third terms and most schools don't allow external visitors.</p>
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