



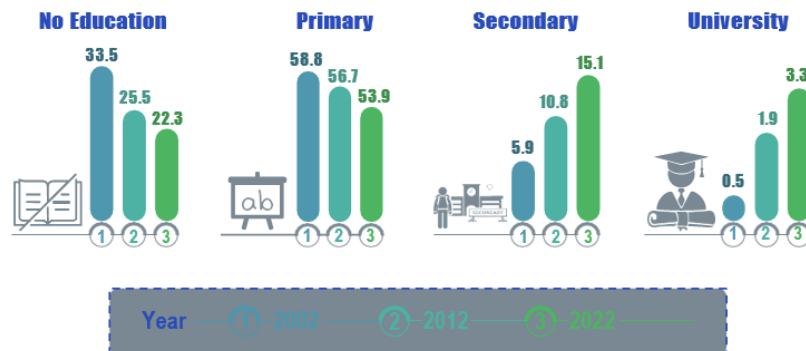
EDUCATION FACT SHEET - RWANDA

<p>Country in Brief</p>	<p>Population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13,246,394 (2022 census) <p>National Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinyarwanda (widely spoken) • English (Administrative) • French (Administrative) <p>Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73.22% (2018) <p>Youth Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86.49% (2018) <p>Female Youth Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88.5% (2018) <p>National Curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes <p>Years of Public School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 <p>Primary Language of Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English or French depending on the school. <p>High School Leaving Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes <p>Date of Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End July- Beginning August
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>Primary/Secondary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting month: End September/October • Ending month: End July <p>Public Tertiary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting month: September • Ending month: August <p>Private Tertiary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting month: September • Ending month: August
<p>Education Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the 5th Rwanda Population and Housing Census results, there were 8.2 million adult individuals aged 15 years and

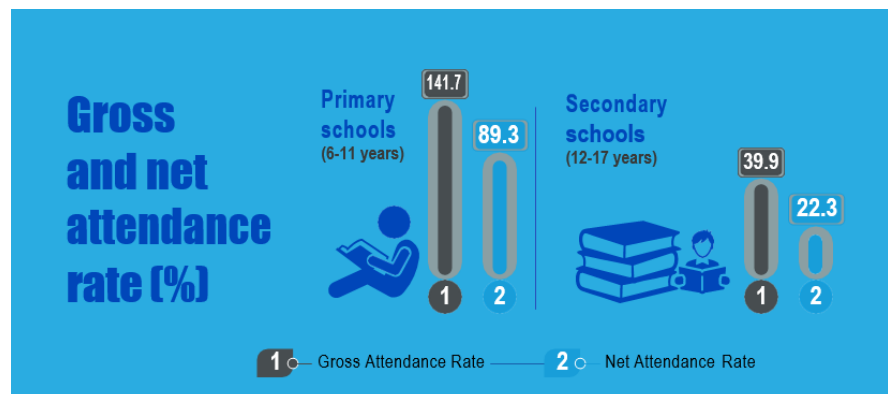
above who had attended education. Among them, approximately 79% (6.5 million) could read and write with understanding in any language.

- Overall, results show that 2,954,770 of the Rwandan resident population (about 22.3%) have never been to school.
- Urban areas had fewer individuals without schooling (18%) than rural areas (24%).
- The overall Net Attendance Rate (NAR) at primary was 89.3% and was higher among females than the male population. More than half of the people have a primary education level (54%); 15% have secondary education, while 3% have reached university education.
- The portion of Females that never attended school is more significant than the Males, 23%, compared to 21% for males. Moreover, the portion of males with a university level of education is higher than that of females (3.8% vs 2.8%).

TREND OF ATTENDED LEVEL OF EDUCATION (%)



Net Attendance for Primary and Secondary Schools 2022



School System

Rwanda operates on a 3-6-3-3-4 system:

- Pre-primary – 3 years
- Primary School – 6 years
- Junior Secondary School (Ordinary level) – 3 years
- Senior Secondary School (Advanced level) – 3 years
- University bachelor’s degree – 4 years

Pre-primary Education: Rwanda’s Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP), 2018/2019 – 2023/2024, recognizes pre-primary education and school readiness programs as a vital foundation for future learning, particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Rwanda has implemented systems to expand access to this level of education through existing schools, private providers, community centers, and other potential venues, such as churches. The target is to have a pre-primary center in or linked to every primary School receiving Government support. By the end of 2024, the pre-primary is expected to rise to 45%.

Primary school Education: Rwanda’s primary education is divided into lower (P1-P3) and upper primary (P4-P6). At the end of the cycle, students take a national examination. To qualify to join secondary School, a student must pass the national exam.

Ordinary Level (Junior Secondary School): Rwandan students take the national secondary Education Ordinary Level exams in nine subjects at the end of the cycle (9th grade). If failed, a student can retake the third year. Students study Kinyarwanda, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Health Sciences, ICT, History and Citizenship, Geography and Environment, Entrepreneurship, French, Kiswahili, Religion and Ethics, Physical Education, and Sports. In addition, schools can choose one of these subjects: Fine arts and Crafts, Home Sciences, or Farming (Agriculture and Animal husbandry).

Most Rwandan students attend public day and boarding schools, many of which are highly competitive. There are also private secondary schools in the country. Students must take a national Secondary Education Advanced Level exam to graduate. In Secondary schools at the advanced level, students will focus on subject combinations as follows:

Sciences (STEM)- Current	Humanities- Current	Languages- Current
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	Physics Chemistry Maths (PCM) Physics Chemistry Biology (PCB) Maths Chemistry Biology (MCB) Maths Physics Geography (MPG) Math Economics Geography (MEG) Maths Physics Computer (MPC) Maths Computer Science Economics (MCE)	History Literature in English Psychology (HLP) History Geography Literature (HGL)	English French Kinyarwanda (LFK)
	Phasing out in 2025	Phasing out in 2025	Phasing out in 2025
	Biology Chemistry Geography (MCG)	Literature Economics Geography (LEG)	English Swahili Kinyarwanda (LKK)
	Physics Economics Math (PEM)	History Economics Geography (HEG)	History Economics Literature (HEL)
	<p>The subjects above are called “Core Subjects.” In addition to these core subjects, students take subsidiary subjects, including Entrepreneurship and General studies, also examinable at the end of the cycle.</p> <p>Kinyarwanda, sub-mathematics, and English are compulsory but not currently examinable. Starting in 2025, sub-mathematics in PCB and English will be examinable.</p>		
Language of Instruction	There are two official languages of instruction throughout the Rwandan educational system:		

- Kinyarwanda in primary school (P1-P3)
- English from P4 through University.

French and Swahili are taught as an elective or a supplemental subject in public primary and secondary schools.

Some private primary and high schools have Francophone and Anglophone systems that use French or English as languages of instruction at any grade level. Students in these schools take either language as an elective or a supplementary subject.

Kinyarwanda is the most widespread language of literacy as 54% of the Rwandan resident population aged years and above are literate in Kinyarwanda only, 14% in Kinyarwanda and English, 2% in Kinyarwanda and French and 4% in Kinyarwanda, English, and French.

School Leaving Exams

There are three national exams in Rwanda, with the first one given at the end of six years of primary education, the second is at the end of Ordinary level (junior secondary school), and the last exam is at the end of Advanced level senior secondary school.

Other than the national exams, schools administer their exams to students at the end of each term. At the end of term 2, NESA (The National Examination and School Inspection Authority) will administer exams at the district level. At the end of the third and final term of the academic year, NESA gives exams at the national level. This allows us to compare students' performance in different schools nationwide.

Available Schools

1. Primary school infrastructure in 2016 & 2017:

Status	2016		2017	
	Schools	Pupil per School	Schools	Pupil per School
Public	725	1063	725	1099
Government aided	1,769	935	1,774	929
Private	348	350	378	254
Total	2,842	896	2,877	883

This table shows the available primary schools in the country according to the category they fall in.

2. Secondary School Infrastructure 2016 & 2017:

Status	2016		2017	
	Schools	Pupils per School	Schools	Pupils per School
Public	460	376	461	405
Government aided	862	350	871	381
Private	253	313	235	314
Total	1,575	352	1,567	378

Tertiary and University System

Rwanda's tertiary institutions' qualifications include undergraduate, graduate, certificate, and diploma programs in various academic and professional fields.

Public Universities in Rwanda recently merged to form the University of Rwanda (UR), and former universities became colleges of the University of Rwanda. Nine public polytechnics offer three-year Higher National Diplomas in Education, Technology, Human Health, Animal Health, and Nursing (Advanced Diploma). The advanced diploma is not equivalent to a bachelor's degree. Still, undergraduate transfer credit can be awarded, as is the case for Teacher Training Colleges and other tertiary non-degree programs.

Several private institutions are also accredited by the High Council of Education Board (HCEB) to award bachelor's degrees. A bachelor's degree is considered the basic academic level to be eligible for the Rwandan professional job market.

Post-secondary institutions:

1. University of Rwanda with six colleges:

- College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM)
- College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS)
- College of Business and Economics (CBE)
- College of Education (CE)
- College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS)
- College of Science and Technology (CST)

2. Public integrated polytechnics:

- Gishari Integrated Polytechnic (GIP)
- Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD)
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Ngoma (IPRC-Ngoma)
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Kigali (IPRC-Kigali)
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Huye (IPRC-Hye)
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Karongi (IPRC-Karongi)
- Musanze Polytechnic College (Musanze Campus)
- Rwanda Teachers College (RTC)
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Tumba (IPRC-Tumba)
- Community Integrated Polytechnic (CIP)
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Rusizi (IPRC-Rusizi)
- IPRC Kitabi

3. Public nursing schools:

- Byumba School of Nursing and Midwifery
- Kibungo School of Nursing and Midwifery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nyagatare School of Nursing and Midwifery ● Rwamagana School of Nursing <p>4. Private Universities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA) ● Eastern African Christian College (EACC) ● Kigali Integrated College (KIC) ● University of Kigali (UoK) ● Ruli Higher Institute of Health (RHIH) ● University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK) ● Adventist University of Central and East Africa (AUCA) ● African Leadership University (ALU) ● Akilah Institute for Women, Kigali (AIWK) ● East African University Rwanda ● Carnegie Mellon University Rwanda (CMUR) ● Catholic Institute of Kabgayi (ICK) ● Catholic University of Rwanda (CUR) ● Christian University of Rwanda ● Hanika Anglican Integrated Polytechnic (HAIP) ● University Of Kibungo (UNIK) ● Muhabura Integrated Polytechnic College (MIPC) ● Institute of Applied Sciences Ruhengeri (INES) ● Institut Superieur Pedagogique de Gitwe (ISPG) ● Kibogora Polytechnic (KP) ● Premier ECDE Teachers College (PECDTC) ● Kigali Independent University (ULK) ● KIM University ● Mount Kenya University Kigali Campus (MKU Kigali) ● Protestant Institute of Arts & Social Sciences (PIASS) ● University of Tourism, Technology and Business Studies ● University of Technology and Arts of Byumba (UTAB) ● University of Global Health Equity
<p>Issues with the Education System</p>	<p>Despite the efforts by the Rwanda Education Board to improve the quality of education and access for all, the following remain significant challenges that the system is facing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficiently skilled teachers in subject competencies, pedagogy, and language of instruction (English) impact learning outcomes. ● Since 2014, the Government of Rwanda has invested, on average, 11.74% of its annual budget on education. This is lower than the recommended 15-20% by international guidelines. ● The current mechanisms and tools to monitor progress (e.g., through the measurement of key composite indicators to enable more effective monitoring of the ESSP) need to be stronger, which poses a significant risk to providing equitable access to relevant, quality education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient cooperation between the public and private sectors in education poses a moderate risk for coherent expansion and quality – particularly for pre-primary, TVET, and higher education.
<p>Academic Calendar</p>	<p>Term 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Late September/Early October to Late December ● Break: Late Dec to Early January <p>Term 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early January to Late March ● Break: Early April to Mid-April <p>Term 3: Mid-April to Mid-July</p> <p>National Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Late July to Early August
<p>SAT Test Centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GASHORA GIRLS ACADEMY SCI/TECH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address: Gashora Sector, Bugesera, Rwanda ○ Center Code: 80138 ● GREEN HILLS ACADEMY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address: Kg 270 Street, Plot No. 8, Kigali, Rwanda ○ Center Code: 80140 ● KIGALI INTL COMM SCH-SAT and ACT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address: Caisse Sociale Vision 2020 Estates, Gaculiro, Kigali, Rwanda ○ Center Code: 80137 ● RIVIERA HIGH SCHOOL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address: Rusororo-kabuga, Kigali, Rwanda ○ Center Code: 80139 ● SCH OF FIN + BANKING, SFB- TOEFL, SAT, and GRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address: Mburabuturo-gikondo, Kigali, Rwanda ○ Center Code: 80135 ● Global Computer Center (TOEFL IBT) ● International Student Support Center in Remera (TOEFL and GRE) <p>The SAT is offered five times a year (October, November, December, May, and June)</p>
<p>ACT Test Centers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kigali International Community School, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Address: Gaculiro, Kigali ○ Center Code: 872800

IELTS/TOEFL	Rwanda has moved to Internet-based TOEFL, and tests can be done twice a month.
Best Time for Admissions Officers to Visit	The best time to visit schools in Rwanda is; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October- to the beginning of December (the end of December is usually exam time) ● End of January to mid-March ● Mid-April to end of June
HALI Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Norris Kayitare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ nkayitare@bridge2rwanda.org ○ Bridge2Rwanda ● Cleo Ingabire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ingabire.c@ggast.org ○ Gashora Girls Academy ● Kaboyo Julius <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ julius@asyv.org ○ Agahozo Shalom Youth Village

Sources:

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