



# FUNDING OF BASIC PUBLIC EDUCATION BY THE NATIONAL BUDGET IN ALBANIA

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR  
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## FACT-SHEET

**Albania's Constitution, international conventions, as well as the law on pre-university education, oblige the Government and the parents to take all possible measures to provide the child with a quality education that best suits the needs, opportunities and wishes of the child.**

Albania continues to be one of the poorest countries in Europe. Nearly 14 percent of the population continues to live in absolute poverty, while almost 47 percent of the population lives in relative poverty. Poverty in Albania, after the 2008 economic crisis in the European Union, hit especially children, youth and retirees.

Different levels of education are closely related to the level of poverty and inequality in society. Studies show the direct link between increasing investment in education, reducing infant mortality, and raising a country's GDP. Investing with one (1) dollar spent to raise a year's education generates around \$ 10 in revenue growth in a low-income country.

According to the World Bank "... access to all levels of education [in Albania] has increased. However, there remain a number of inequalities in access to education."

The poor show a lower rate of enrolment in education and educational achievement, limiting their economic opportunities and the development base of the country as a whole. In preschool education, for example, net enrolment is twice as high among those who are richer than those who are poorer. In 2011, only one third of Roma children were enrolled in the pre-school education system.

Despite the fact that Albanian students have continually improved their results in international assessments (PISA), learning outcomes remain low, with an equivalent academic gap of 2.5 years of education among 15-year-olds compared to the OECD average.

Children belonging to minorities, especially Roma, children living in street situations, children with disabilities, children, girls, etc., are more violated by the right to education. Poverty, inequality, social exclusion, violence, bullying and discrimination against children and adolescents who attend public pre-university education are the main factors that affect the failure to respect their right to education.

Since 2008, the state budgeting process is regulated by a special law. The State Budget includes all central government revenues, expenditures and financing.

The budget for pre-university education in Albania comes from two sources: central and local. The central budget is the contribution the government plans for education as a whole. It covers current expenditures (teacher salaries, social security, etc.) and capital expenditures (investment-related costs, for example construction of new schools, etc.). Both of these costs together form what are considered as budget expenditures.

## Public pre-university education in Albania

Under the law on pre-university education, basic education is divided into two levels: primary education (grades 1-6) and lower secondary education (grades 7-9). Secondary Education (grades 10-12) is developed through three recognized forms of law: gymnasium (general education), vocational education and oriented secondary education. Because secondary education is not compulsory, only a part of the students continue from basic education to secondary education.

The number and percentage of girls in education is lower in years than in boys. There is no significant difference between the two sexes in the pursuit of basic education. The difference between the two sexes can be explained by the highest birth rate of boys versus girls, which in some cases is significantly higher and raised as a concern in the findings of the Census of the Population of the Year 2011.

## National budget and pre-university education in Albania

Although budget expenditure have risen from year to year, which is an indicator of the economic growth of the country, expenditure for pre-university education despite been declared a national priority, has not benefited from this growth of the country's economy, but on the contrary, the funds have decreased from year-on-year, with a slight increase only in 2018.

This graph analyses the percentage of budget expenditures for pre-university education versus total budget expenditures of the state budget in Albania. As we have already noted above, budget expenditures and the percentage in the state budget for education expenditure since 2014 and onwards have come down year-on-year. This ever-decreasing trajectory cannot be justified either by the declining number of pupils' enrolments in schools across Albania.

Current expenditures bear the bulk of budget spending on education, while capital expenditures occupy a very small share. The data show that the main expenses for education in Albania are occupied by the salaries of teachers, psychologists and auxiliary teachers, while the level of investment in education remains very low. Investment in education for schools and new classes, friendly spaces and suitable environment for children education, has always been reduced, with few exceptions only for the years 2014 and 2018.

