**Education in Flanders**

Population: 11,268,000 people in 2016
- 6,478,000 people in the Flemish region
- 1,188,000 people in the Brussels region
- 3,602,000 people in the Wallonia region

**Flemish Education Administration**
- Department of Education and Training responsible for policy making
- Agencies that implement policy:
  - Agency for Higher Education, Adult Education, Qualifications and Bursaries
  - Agency for Infrastructure in Education
  - Agency for Education Services (early childhood and primary education, secondary education, part-time arts education, centres for pupil guidance, school inspection and guidance)
- School Inspection

The Department, Agencies and School Inspection function autonomously, with the lead the Secretary-General in the Department, the Administrator-General in an agency and an Inspector-General in the Inspection
- The Flemish Minister of Education
- The Flemish Education Council, the strategic advisory Board of this policy domain

**The education system**

Some general principles
- School instruction language is Dutch
- Compulsory education for all children from six to eighteen
- Control of education costs until the end of compulsory education
- Freedom of education
- 3 educational networks:
  - GO! education of the Flemish Community
  - Publicly funded, publicly run education: municipal education (organised by local authorities) and provincial education (organised by provincial authorities)
  - Publicly funded, privately run schools organised by a private person or private organisation: Catholic Education, protestant, Jewish, orthodox, Islamic, method schools (Montessori, Steiner, Freinet)
- Autonomy of education providers with local accountability at every level of education

**School calendar 2017-2018**
- Open: 1 September
- Close: 30 June
- Autumn holidays: 30 October - 5 November 2017
- Armistice day: 11 November 2017
- Christmas holiday: 25 December 2017 - 7 January 2018
- Crocus holiday: 12 until 18 February 2018
- Easter holiday: 2 until 15 April 2018
- Labour Day: 1 May 2018
- Ascension Day: 10 - 11 May 2018
- Whit Monday: 21 May 2018
- Summer holiday: 1 July until 31 August 2018