



Education in Zambia



Population: 16.4 million people in 2015

(Zambia, Central Statistical Office, 2017)

Ministry of General Education (MoGE) and Ministry of Higher Education

MoGE has seven Directorates:

- Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Human Resource and Administration (HRA)
- Planning and Information (PI)
- Teacher Education and Specialised Services (TESS)
- Standards and Curriculum (S&C)
- Open and Distance Education (ODE)
- National Science Centre

Stakeholders in education

The Ministries responsible for education and skills training, other government ministries, communities, civil society organisations, cooperating partners, non-governmental organisations, Faith Based Organisations and the private sector

Some general principles

- School instruction language has recently changed
 - one local language (one of the seven most important ones) in early childhood and primary education
 - in grade 4 English is introduced
- Free education for grade 1 to 8 (no fines if children are not sent)
- Hidden costs like parent teacher association and uniform. Many school leaders aim to keep it free, that means sometimes grade 9 fees enable schools to organise early childhood education
- Too few schools, meaning less choice for parents and their children
- Government Schools, private Schools and community Schools. All should follow the same government guidelines

Challenges

- Orphans and vulnerable children
- Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSEN)
- Distance to schools
- Lack of teaching and learning resources (textbooks, desks etc.)
- Limited classroom space at ECE and Secondary levels
- Poor school infrastructure and amenities
- Poor nutrition
- Low attendance

The education system

Age										
26	D									
25	M	D								
24	B4	M	D							
23		B3	M	D						
22			B2	M						
21				B1						
20						A3				
19			B			A	A2			
18										
17										
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4										
3										
2										
1										
0										

Note: B1 is the 3 year bachelors programme, B4, the 6 year.
M is Masters and D stands for Doctoral Programmes.

Equity in education

- Right to enrolment
- Parent teacher association often links the community and the school
- Ministry promotes (but doesn't finance) SEN units in normal schools

Policies and interventions to combat inequity

- Free Basic Education
- Expansion of ECE Sub-Sector through construction of more Centres
- Re-Entry Policy
- Fifty-fifty policy
- Home Grown School Feeding Programme
- Electrification of rural and remote schools
- Youth and adult literacy education and continuing education
- Bursaries

School calendar 2018

Open 15 January
Close 7 December

TERM 2 (14 May – 10 Aug)
Africa Freedom Day 25 May
Heroes & Unity Days 2-3 July
Farmers Day 6 August

TERM 1 (15 Jan – 13 Apr)
New Year's Day 1 January
Women's Day 8 March
Youth Day 12 March
Good Friday 30 March
Holy Saturday 31 March
Easter Monday 2 April
Labour Day 1 May

TERM 3 (10 Sept – 7 Dec)
National Prayers Day 18 October
Independence Day 24 October
Christmas Day 25 December

Esvah Chizambe