

# Ukraine

## Language

- Ukrainian is the language of instruction in schools, as well as the official language used for government communication, media, and writing.
- **58%** of Ukrainians use Ukrainian exclusively or predominantly in daily life. This number has been growing over time. In areas close to other countries, there is a greater prevalence of speakers of the national languages of those countries.
- The **Russian** language is **not** taught in schools in Ukraine and is not used in educational organizations, formal settings, media, or radio.



### UKRAINIAN

### RUSSIAN

#### ALPHABET

Both use the Cyrillic alphabet

4 letters in Ukrainian not present in Russian (ґ, є, і, ї)

4 letters in Russian not present in Ukrainian (ѐ, ъ, ы, э)

#### VOCABULARY

Roughly 55-62% of vocabulary is shared

Ukrainian vocabulary makes the language closest to Belarusian (16% difference)

Russian vocabulary is most closely related to Bulgarian (27% difference)

# Educational Structure Before the War

**Language of instruction:** Ukrainian

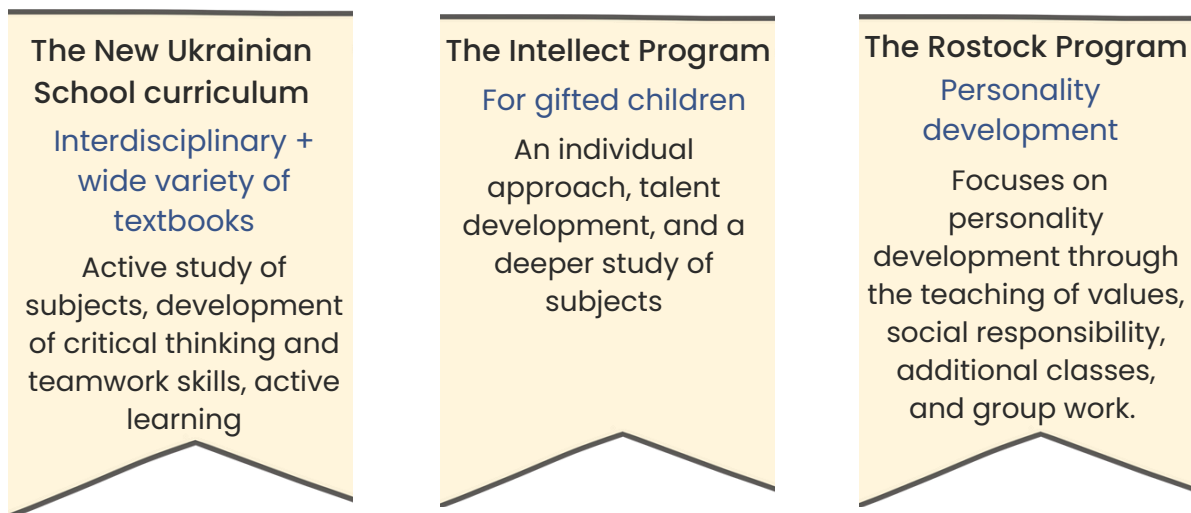
**Core subjects:**

Culture, Mathematics, Linguistics and Civics

**Lesson structure:**

Includes lectures, discussions, group activities, student presentations, individual work, research, educational games, and home projects.

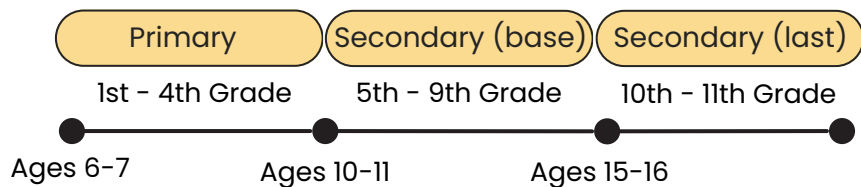
**Typical curricula:**



**Types of schools:**

- Public schools
- Private
- Specialized (e.g. bilingual or with an in-depth learning of math or STEM subjects)
- Online schools

**Primary and Secondary Education:**



**In primary school**

- Students stay in their classroom all day (except for special subjects such as Art and PE).

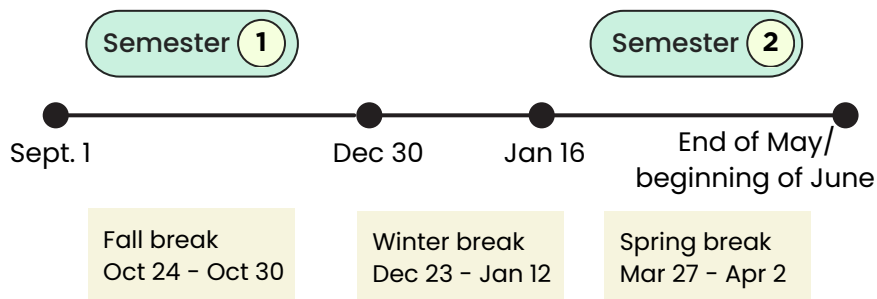
**In secondary school**

- Students go to different classrooms for special subjects, such as Physics, History, Biology, etc.

**Typical schedule:**

Daily schedule

- 1st grade: 35 minute lessons
- 2nd-3rd grades: 40 minute lessons
- Older grades: 45 minute lessons



## Perceptions Toward Schooling

- Primary education is compulsory from the ages 6-15, and the majority of people encourage schooling.
- The same schooling options are available to both boys and girls. Generally, there have always been more girls than boys in schools, which is reflected in the general female to male population ratio in Ukraine.
- If students do not go on to upper secondary school, then they may opt to study further at their own expense at a vocational secondary school. According to 2019 data, 2.3 million students were enrolled in secondary education in Ukraine, with an enrollment rate of 97%.

# Current Schooling Situation in Ukraine Since the War Began

- Schools in vulnerable areas are functioning online
- Education happens in spurts due to disruptions and chaos
- Each class is a group of 25–30 students
- Breaks divide the school year into 4 terms as before

**A 2023 survey reports the following learning situations for primary and secondary school children due to COVID-19 and the war:**

○ 1/3 learning fully in-person

○ 1/3 learning in a hybrid in-person and online format

○ 1/3 learning fully online

**Percentage of teachers that report decline in skills according to a 2023 survey:**

○ 57% deterioration in students' Ukrainian language abilities

○ 45% reduction in mathematics skills

○ 52% reduction in foreign language abilities

Roughly **25%** of Ukrainian students aren't able to continue receiving efficient education due to the war.

## How Do We Address Education Expectations for Students with Frequent Moves

- In theory, students who have not achieved the program-required academic results by the end of the year are advised to be held back, but in reality, schools will not push for this solution given the current circumstances. It can be assumed that some students have not completed each grade's requirements thoroughly.
- Schools do offer extra classes and special summer camps.



## Topics to Handle with Care

### ! Texts about mothers & fathers

- ◆ Warn children of the topic and be ready to offer support if needed.
- ◆ Offer a grieving child (if they are ready) the opportunity to talk about a loved one and dedicate a poem or prose to them.
- ◆ Avoid questions like 'What do you feel?' as they may intensify emotional reactions in children. Instead, conclude by emphasizing our connection with those we love.



### ! Texts about war & the military

- ◆ If there are children of fallen or active military personnel in the classroom, be extra attentive and careful. If a child is in a phase of acute grief, it may be best to avoid these materials for now.
- ◆ Textbooks may include texts about cities that were destroyed or are under temporary occupation. It's crucial to monitor children's reactions and be ready to offer support.
- ◆ Start conversations with children about why conflicts arise—whether with peers or relatives—and explore ways to maintain relationships and grow closer by addressing unmet needs and communicating effectively.

Translated and summarized from [Ukrainian Psychologist Svitlana Royz PDF](#)

Sources: Consultations with cultural experts | Map: Mapchart (<https://mapchart.net>) | Ukrainian psychologist Svitlana Royz (<https://mon.gov.ua/storage/app/media/news/2023/10/Svitlana.Royz-rekomendatsiyi-05.10.2023.pdf>) | NPR: [Ukraine's Kharkiv moves classrooms underground so kids survive Russian attacks](#) | Unicef (<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/widespread-learning-loss-among-ukraines-children-students-enter-fourth-year>)

