The education system guarantees the right to education of those who cannot attend school on a regular basis by developing an adequate distance education provision or, where appropriate, specific educational support.

Among the main organisational variations and alternative structures in primary education, the following would seem to be particularly noteworthy:

1. rural school
2. itinerancy and non-regular schooling
3. bilingual education
4. distance education

**Rural school**

Types of provision:

- **Gathered Rural Schools (CRA):**
  - **purpose:** provide educational services in geographical areas with small centres of population
  - **target groups:** pre-primary and primary education students living in geographical areas with small centres of population
  - **organisation:**
    - each CRA brings together several schools of nearby towns and villages, forming one single school
    - there is one single management team and all peripatetic school teachers teaching in these schools are members of the Teachers’ Assembly
    - the school development plan and the yearly general programme are the same for all the schools grouped together in the area
    - each school may be structured in a small number of classrooms, so there might be students of different ages and grades in the same group.

- **Rural Centres for Educational Innovation (CRIE):**
  - **purpose:** collaborate in the development of educational innovation and teacher training, and promote coordination among schools and the involvement of the educational community
  - **target groups:** Pre-primary and primary education students enrolled in Gathered Rural Schools and incomplete schools
  - **organisation:** they draw up annual action plans taking into account the pedagogical and curricular organisation documents from the participating schools.
Itinerancy and non-regular schooling

Types of provision:

- **Itinerant education services:**
  - **purpose:** offer services and provide itinerant companies and temporary workers, as well as circus and fair workers, with units of educational support during the school year, which have enough pupils at the compulsory schooling age.
  - **target groups:**
    - pupils at compulsory schooling age who cannot attend school due to a continuing itinerancy of their families.
    - pupils at compulsory schooling age who have to move from their habitual residence during the school year because of their families’ temporary job or because they are circus or fair workers and, due to this reason, they cannot attend the school where they are enrolled.
  - **organisation:**
    - the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training establishes agreements with companies whose itinerancy is permanent during the school year.
    - pupils can enrol in the modality of distance education and keep this situation while the condition of itinerancy remains.

- **Hospital teaching:**
  - **purpose:** provide pupils who do not attend school regularly with educational attention, and coordinate home teaching programmes through the competent services.
  - **target groups:** pupils at compulsory schooling age hospitalised for a long period of time.
  - **organisation:** during the hospitalisation period, they are enrolled in the ordinary school where their education process is developed. Supporting school units are created in hospitals, as well as the corresponding mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating them.

- **Home teaching programmes:**
  - **purpose:** provide pupils who do not attend school regularly with educational attention, and coordinate home teaching programmes through the competent services.
  - **target groups:** pupils at compulsory schooling age who cannot attend school due to a prolonged stay at home by medical prescription.
  - **organisation:** these pupils can enrol in the modality of distance education and keep this situation while the condition that created it remains.

Bilingual education

Types of provision:

- **Bilingual schools - Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and British Council Agreement:**
  - **purpose:** provide students with an education which enables them to obtain Spanish and British certificates at the end of compulsory secondary education, so that they can continue their studies in any of the two countries.
  - **target groups:** students enrolled in public pre-primary, primary and compulsory
secondary education schools
- **organisation:**
  - bilingual schools implement an integrated Spanish-British curriculum
  - lessons are taught by teachers specifically hired for the project and specialist teachers of English of the bilingual schools.

- **Portuguese Language and Culture Programme:**
  - **purpose:**
    - guarantee that the children of Portuguese workers and immigrants may retain their linguistic
    - encourage Spanish students' interest and respect for the Portuguese culture.
  - **target groups:** students coming from Portugal or Portuguese speaking students, and Spanish students enrolled in public pre-primary and primary schools and, to a lesser extent, secondary schools
  - **organisation:** Portuguese language learning activities are part of the teaching activities of the school. In addition, there are student exchanges and study visits in both countries, as well as cultural weeks and Portuguese clubs.

**Distance education**

Types of provision:

- **Distance education:**
  - **purpose:** offer education services to those who cannot take teaching through the ordinary in-class education, due to personal, social, geographic or other exceptional circumstances
  - **target groups:** Primary Education pupils
  - **organisation:**
    - pupils must require a special authorisation to the Education Inspectorate Service of the province where they live in order to be able to take these studies through this branch
    - the tutorial role is mainly developed through the Internet, by means of an education platform or a Virtual Centre on Education, with the communication tools available for individual and group attention.

- **Flexible Studies in Primary Education:**
  - **purpose:** reduce the workload of those students doubly enrolled
  - **target groups:** primary Education pupils living abroad and enrolled in the Education System of the country of residence through the Innovation and Development Centre for Distance Education (CIDEAD)
  - **organisation:** pupils only take some of the subjects of the official curriculum in the Spanish Education System.