Pre-primary education is the stage of education which caters for children aged 0-6. It is non-compulsory and organised into two cycles: the first one for children up to 3 years of age, and the second one for children aged 3-6.

The education authorities, in their respective fields of competence, are responsible for establishing the educational contents of the first cycle.

2019

**VECA Programme against child poverty**

The VECA programme is a Government initiative aimed at guaranteeing children the rights to food, leisure and culture of children during the school holidays.

It aims to provide vulnerable children with summer camps and inclusive cultural and leisure activities, as well as to ensure - in the absence of school canteen scholarships because of the holidays - a healthy and balanced diet during the summer period. It was designed by the Government as an emergency measure in 2017 through the High Commissioner to Combat Child Poverty.

A total of 15 million euros will be assigned to finance programmes aimed at children who are in need and to prevent situations that may lead to social exclusion arising from the summer holiday period among the most disadvantaged families. It is anticipated that the number of beneficiaries will reach 100,000 children, tripling the beneficiaries for 2017.

The Program is implemented in connection with Municipal Social Services and schools, in such a way that access for potentially beneficiary families is facilitated through the information systems of the dining grants. The services offered should include breakfast, recreational, recreational, cultural and educational activities, dining service and dinner bag when the deficiencies of the home advise it.

More information on [VECA Program Report](#).

**Improvement of the conditions for the performance of teaching and teaching in the field of non-university education**

Law 4/2019, of 7 March, restores the situation prior to Royal Decree-Law 14/2012, of the 20th of April, on urgent measures to rationalise public expenditure in the field of education.

The educational administrations may also re-establish, in their respective spheres, the study part of the weekly working day of the educational personnel teaching subjects regulated in the Organic Law of Education (LOE) of 2006, which in Early Childhood Education means a maximum of 23 hours in the centres.
Draft Organic Law on Education

The Bill, which is in the parliamentary approval phase, aims to promote Early Childhood Education by regulating:

- the educational contents of the first cycle of this stage
- the minimum requirements to be met by the centres providing this stage of education
- the qualification requirements of its professionals
- requirements relating to pupil/teacher ratio and number of school places.

For further information read Reformas en curso e iniciativas políticas [2] and Proyecto de Ley de Educación [3].

National strategy to prevent and tackle poverty and social exclusion (2019-2023)

The goal of the strategy is to tackle the situations of poverty and social exclusion that exist in Spain.

One of the lines of action related to Equal and Inclusive Education (Objective 2.1) is the strengthening of intervention and early schooling (0-3 years), particularly aimed at the most disadvantaged groups.

For further information read Reformas en Educación Primaria y Secundaria [4].

2018

Proposal to reform the teaching profession

The Minister of Education and Vocational Training has made a proposal to reform the teaching profession that addresses different key aspects:

- initial training: the question arises as to whether entrance examinations or requirements in the case of studies qualifying to teach should be established or not: teaching degrees (pre-primary and primary education) and the compulsory secondary education, Bachillerato, vocational training and language education teacher training Master's programme
- induction in the classroom: the possibility of establishing an induction phase for new teachers in order to help them consolidate their skills before they take up independent work
- continuing professional development and evaluation: the establishment of a thorough evaluation system that enables teachers who wish to receive information on their teaching tasks to do so, in order to help them improve their teaching practice. An improvement in the working conditions under which they exercise their activity is also advocated.

A virtual participation space has been set up to gather input from teachers during three months.

For more information, see the Forum Educate for the 21st century. Challenges and proposals on the teaching profession [5].

Draft Budget Plan for 2019

In October, the Cabinet has approved the Budget Plan for 2019, which has been submitted to the European Commission for review.

Among the social policy measures included in the State Budget for 2019, the following are to be
mentioned:

- school meal grants to combat child poverty
- promotion of the universalisation of education for children aged 0-3.

**Bill to revert some educational measures**

In October, the Cabinet has agreed to submit the Bill to revert some of the educational measures implemented in 2012 to the Parliament for approval.

The new provision, developed by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, seeks to abolish:

- the compulsory increase in the length of teachers’ school day (a minimum of 25 hours in pre-primary education). The education authorities, within their own territory, will be able to establish part of the weekly school day of teachers
- the 10-school day waiting period in order to appoint substitute teachers who replace the designated teachers on leave. The replacement is now immediate from the moment the designated teacher takes the leave.

Before it was submitted to the Parliament, the Draft Bill was presented to education trade union organisations and addressed to the State School Council. It was subsequently presented and passed by the Sectoral Committee for Education and finally approved by the Cabinet.

**Expenditure on education policy in 2018**

The State Budget for 2018 has been approved in July 2018.

The expenditure on education policy in 2018 amounts to EUR 2 582 million, a 2.3% more as compared to 2017.

The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, concentrates available financial resources on programmes which are strategic for the education system:

1. **pre-primary and primary education** budget programme *(EUR 160 million)*. The objectives of this programme in relation to this educational stage are:

   - increase the number of school places in the first cycle of pre-primary education in quality conditions
   - guarantee a free school place at the second cycle of pre-primary education for all students whose families request it.

2. **education abroad** budget programme *(EUR 98 million)*: this programme enables the provision of education to pre-primary education students, as well as to compulsory education students, in several educational institutions abroad.

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2017
Expenditure on education policy in 2017

The State Budget for 2017 has been approved in June 2017.

The expenditure on education policy in 2017 amounts to EUR 2 525 million, a 1.7% more as compared to 2016.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities, concentrates available financial resources on programmes which are strategic for the education system:

1. **pre-primary and primary education** budget programme (**EUR 159 million**). The commitment of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport regarding this budget line is to increase the number of school places in the first cycle of pre-primary education in quality conditions.

2. **education abroad** budget programme (**EUR 95 million**): this programme enables the provision of education to pre-primary education students, as well as to compulsory education students, in several educational institutions abroad.

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