



# NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION MONITOR AROUND THE GLOBE



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## **Our Vision**

We envision a world where every person, regardless of background or location, has safe access to quality education.

## **Our Mission**

We aim to remove barriers to education through research, advocacy and community-based solutions.

Through research we aim to identify barriers to education and offer possible solutions. Our advocacy gives a voice to those who cannot speak out and aims to hold those responsible to account. With community-based solutions we promote change in a sustainable and proactive manner.

## **Our Values**

### **Inclusivity**

We embrace diversity and strive to create an environment where everyone's unique differences are accepted and welcomed.

### **Empowerment**

We empower individuals through education and career opportunities to achieve their potential.

### **Advocacy**

We bring attention to violations related to education, advocating for those in need, to support the fight for change.

### **Collaboration**

We believe in the power of partnerships and work collaboratively with individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to drive change.

### **Integrity**

We aim to uphold the highest standards of honesty, transparency, and ethical behaviour in all our actions.

### **Impact**

We believe that our work should be creating a direct impact in improving peoples' access to education and in prompting action against human rights violations.

## **Contact Us**





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## Issues We Cover

- **Discrimination (economic, ethnic, religious, race, cultural, language, urban/rural)**
- **Segregation.**
- **Poverty.**
- **Lack of funding for education.**
- **The expense of education.**
- **Disability inequality.**
- **Gender inequality.**
- **Hunger and poor nutrition**
- **Censorship on education**

- **Low-quality education.**
  - **Child labor.**
  - **Child marriage.**
  - **Conflict and terrorism (war, shooting)**
  - **Violence in school (bullying, physical/psychological/sexual abuse)**
  - **Refugee/immigrant (Access to education)**
  - **Insufficient digitalization.**
  - **Hidden costs of education.**
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# AFRICA

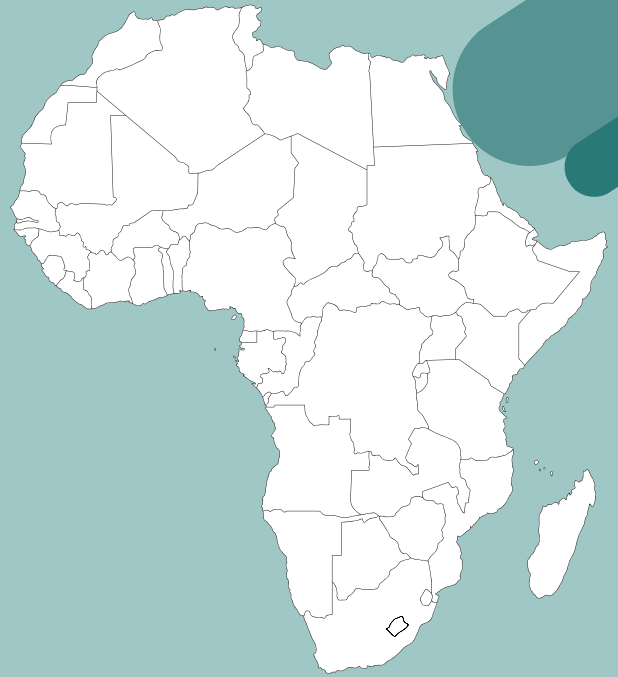
## Kenya

In Kenya, experts have voiced their concerns about a new bill aimed at revising the examination assessment system for various levels of education. The Kenya National Education Assessments Council (KNEAC) Bill 2025 seeks to enhance the efficiency of the examination system by introducing digital tools, such as AI-powered scoring. However, the bill has been met with criticism by experts who believe that it prioritizes commercial interests over improving the quality of education. On the other hand, supporters of the bill argue that AI will enhance efficiency and reduce human error during the examination process. Alongside the implementation of digital tools, the bill proposes stricter sanctions in case of breaches of the code of conduct.

Source(s):

<https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/education/179111/ai-in-exam-marking-experts-say-kenyas-new-education-bill-prioritises-profit-over-learning>

<https://www.citizen.digital/news/inside-plan-to-use-ai-in-marking-and-scoring-kenyan-exams-n361221>



## Liberia

The National Teachers Association of Liberia Credit Union Cooperative Society (NATLCUCS) has disclosed its current net surplus of LDR 16,139,734.68 at its 6th Annual General Assembly. The surplus is a significant increase compared to LDR 14 million in 2023. In August 2013, the NATLCUCS was created to aid government-employed teachers and education workers living in poverty to access loans. Furthermore, the NATLCUCS aims at improving financial literacy and inclusivity amongst educators, thus supporting the government's efforts in poverty eradication by strengthening economic self-reliance. Despite the progress and the positive impact of the Union, there are concerns over some teachers acquiring multiple loans from various institutions without full deductions.

Source(s):

[https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/big-boost-for-public-teacher-education-workers/article\\_85cb9372-4c6b-4700-aa1e-788353d62b14.html](https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/big-boost-for-public-teacher-education-workers/article_85cb9372-4c6b-4700-aa1e-788353d62b14.html)

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/2016news/liberia-big-boost-for-public-school-teachers-as-credit-union-reports-146m-surplus-calls-for-increased-membership/>



## Morocco

Abdelilah Benkirane, Secretary General of the Justice and Development Party (PJD), has sparked outrage after telling young women to marry before pursuing education or careers, warning they'd end up like "lonely storks" if they waited too long. His comments were widely condemned by civil society and feminist groups as sexist and out of touch. Activists highlighted how such rhetoric undermines efforts to keep girls in school and reinforces outdated gender roles. The group Kif Mama Kif Baba noted that 97% of girls who marry before 18 drop out of school, arguing that "missed education does not return". The speech reignited debate over women's rights in Morocco, exposing cultural divides between conservative norms and calls for gender equality.

Source: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2025/07/227354/marriage-before-education-benkiranes-backward-advice-sparks-outrage/>



## Namibia

The UNESCO Office in Namibia has collaborated with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) to introduce the book *Redefining Manhood* along with its companion guide, the *Boys' Club Manual*. This initiative aims to foster positive masculinity, encourage gender equality, and cultivate leadership among young men within higher education institutions throughout the country. Author Andreas Robert explained that the inspiration for the book arose from a growing concern that many boys in Namibian society are being raised without positive male role models. Reinforcing this perspective, Eunice Smith, Head of the UNESCO Office in Namibia, highlighted the pressing need to tackle rising levels of educational disengagement and dropout rates among boys – both within Namibia and beyond. She contextualised the launch as part of UNESCO's wider commitment to promoting inclusive education and achieving gender balance in academic settings.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-supports-launch-redefining-manhood-book-and-boys-club-manual>

## Sierra Leone

On the 2nd of July, 2025, the Ministry of Primary- and Second Education (MBSSE) of Sierra Leone launched a policy framework with support from UNICEF to increase relevancy and impact in the country's education alongside with the promotion of inclusive development; access to life skills education for all youngsters regardless of gender or ability.

According to UN-estimates, adolescents make up about 23% of Sierra Leone's population and fewer than half of the country's population is literate alongside which young people are at the forefront of overarching issues such as climate change, youth unemployment and ongoing inequality. The government of Sierra Leone states to assign a significant part (20-22%) of the national budget to educational purposes in alignment with the SDG targets for the continent of Africa. The majority of the fundings are used for the training and recruiting of thousands of new teachers. In 2023, 92% of the education budget was distributed, which means that schools, teachers and learners are reached.

The current government under President Julius Maada Bio has been placing education at the center of the national agenda according to its own statements. In the coming period, the newly launched 'National Life Skills Framework' will be implemented in school curricula and used in the training of new teachers.

Source:

[UNICEF SL IE Policy Brief May 2025 v7](#)

[Literacy rate, adult total \(% of people ages 15 and above\) - Sierra Leone | Data](#)

[Sierra Leone Launches National Life Skills Framework to Empower Adolescents for the Future](#)

## Togo

The government of Togo has launched a harsh crackdown on nationwide protests sparked by constitutional reforms that remove term limits and grant President Faure Gnassingbé an indefinite mandate—now reinforced by his new role as “President of the Council of Ministers.” Security forces have been accused of using tear gas, batons, arbitrary arrests, and pursuing protesters into homes, resulting in at least five deaths, including a 15-year-old teen, and numerous injuries. While the government claims the victims drowned and has promised investigations, civil society groups and Amnesty International denounce what they see as systemic authoritarianism and impunity, warning that the violent repression risks plunging Togo into a deeper political crisis.

Source: <https://www.africanews.com/2025/07/10/togo-protest-crackdown-raises-fears-of-worsening-political-crisis/>



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## Tunisia

The deaths of three sixth-form students in a school wall collapse in Mezzouna on April 14, 2025, have sparked public outrage over chronic underinvestment and neglect of Tunisia's hinterland. Protestors gathered outside the local National Guard post demanding accountability and justice. In response, President Kais Saied condemned the incident, stating that the students were “victims of negligence and years of corruption within these institutions”. A high-level meeting was swiftly held at the Carthage Palace to address the state of educational infrastructure and outline urgent measures to ensure student safety. The tragedy has cast a spotlight on the widespread issues of systemic neglect and poor maintenance in Tunisia's public schools. During the meeting, officials called for a nationwide assessment to identify unsafe schools and public buildings, with a mandate to either secure or demolish hazardous structures. President Saied pledged increased funding to prevent future incidents while also citing the 1958 Education Law that empowers communities to contribute their skills and resources to ongoing reconstruction efforts.

Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202504170124.html>

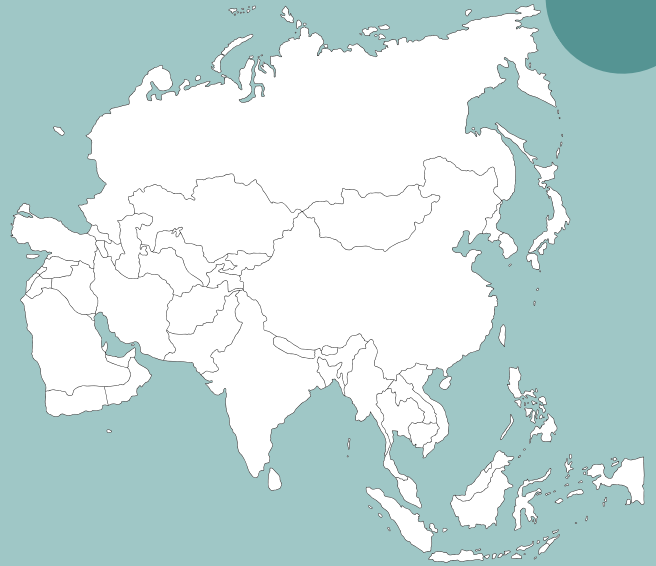


# ASIA

## Afghanistan

Educational issues in Afghanistan have become increasingly dire under Taliban rule, particularly for girls and women. Since the group's return to power in August 2021, the Taliban has systematically stripped women and girls of their right to education, prompting the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for two senior leaders on charges of gender-based persecution. ICC judges stated that girls have been "severely deprived" of basic rights, including education, with over 2.5 million school-age girls now unable to attend school. The Taliban's restrictions extend beyond education, affecting women's ability to work, move freely, or participate in public life, actions condemned by international human rights groups and Muslim-majority nations alike.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/8/icc-arrest-warrants-for-taliban-leaders-over-alleged-persecution-of-women>



## Armenia

Armenia has taken a significant step forward in expanding access to inclusive early childhood education, particularly for children in underserved and refugee-hosting communities. With support from UNICEF and the Education Cannot Wait Foundation, 13 new preschool learning spaces have been established across four regions, enabling 350 children—including 180 refugees—to begin their educational journey. Despite recent improvements in national preschool enrolment, rural areas still face shortages in facilities. This initiative not only improves infrastructure but also invests in quality education by training over 200 educators in inclusive practices. It reflects a broader commitment to ensuring every child in Armenia has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive from an early age.

◆ Source: <https://www.unicef.org/armenia/en/press-releases/unicef-and-partners-expand-inclusive-preschool-education-across-armenia>

## Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's Minister of Science and Education has announced that around ten new schools will be opening starting from the 2025–2026 academic year in territories previously occupied by Armenian military forces. Currently, 14 general education institutions have already opened in these territories. Additionally, six pre-school education centres opened their doors this year. Furthermore, the minister disclosed plans to open new schools in other regions as well.

Source(s): <https://news.az/news/azerbaijan-to-commission-about-10-new-schools-in-its-liberated-areas>  
<https://www.azernews.az/nation/244465.html>





## Bangladesh

Six months into the partnership between the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the project “Combating Early and Forced Child Marriage in Rohingya Refugee Camps: Non-formal Education in Safe Spaces” is already making a meaningful impact in safeguarding Rohingya women and girls. The initiative has reached close to 80,000 adolescent girls and women across Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char. These areas are home to some of the world’s most densely populated refugee camps, where challenges such as early marriage – affecting over 10% of Rohingya girls – gender-based violence, and adolescent pregnancy are widespread. With nearly 90% of adolescents lacking access to formal education in these settings, this programme is filling a critical gap through 96 dedicated safe spaces. These include 39 women-friendly spaces and 57 community-based learning centres. These hubs not only provide access to education and essential life skills but also offer mental health and psychosocial support in secure and empowering environments.

Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/rohingya-crisis/378264/korean-funded-unfpa-project-reaches-80-000>

## China

In Tibet, a new report from the Tibet Action Institute alleges widespread abuse, neglect, and forced assimilation of Tibetan children in Chinese state-run boarding schools. The report claims that children are subjected to identity erasure and denied access to their families and native language. Tibetan advocacy groups and Indian lawmakers who attended the launch in Delhi are urging international bodies and the Indian government to press China for a public investigation. Beijing has not responded, but it has historically rejected allegations of rights violations in Tibet. The report adds to growing global concern over the long-term impact of China’s assimilation policies on Tibetan cultural survival.

Source: <https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2025/07/11/des96-tibet-schools-report.html>

## Bhutan

Despite strong policy frameworks and growing efforts to support inclusive education, Bhutanese students with disabilities face persistent and significant barriers in accessing higher education after Class XII. Colleges and universities often lack essential services such as trained Bhutanese Sign Language interpreters, note-takers, counsellors, and accessible infrastructure, leaving many deaf, blind, and mobility-impaired students effectively excluded. Nationwide, nearly 70% of children with disabilities are out of school, compounded by acute shortages of special educators and comprehensive disability data. Advocates warn that without concrete action such as expanding specialised institutes, improving staff capacity, retrofitting campuses, and ensuring meaningful support, young people with disabilities risk being relegated to poverty, manual labour, and social exclusion despite the existence of progressive policies.

Source: <https://asianews.network/bhutanese-students-with-disabilities-struggle-for-access-to-higher-education/>

## India

Around 35 female students of a gurukul, a traditional Indian residential school, in Telangana were hospitalised with suspected food poisoning. The students experienced nausea and stomach pain and were swiftly transported to a hospital where they received medical treatment. After receiving treatment, the students’ condition has been stable, and several students have already been discharged. Authorities of the Health and Education Department were made aware of the incident, and preliminary reports suggested the cause of the symptoms to be food poisoning. The incident is part of a concerning increase in deadly incidents at gurukul schools and a rise in food poisoning cases in Telangana. Parents and the local community are demanding strict disciplinary actions and improved food safety protocols in gurukul schools.

Source(s):

<https://www.siasat.com/40-gurukul-students-hospitalised-for-food-poisoning-in-nalgonda-3245869/>

[https://munsifdaily.com/food-poisoning-scare-in-telangana-35-female/#google\\_vignette](https://munsifdaily.com/food-poisoning-scare-in-telangana-35-female/#google_vignette)



## Iraq

On 6 April 2025, teachers across Iraq launched a nationwide strike, escalating demands for higher salaries and improved working conditions. Led by the Coordinating Committee for Teachers, the strike called for a range of financial improvements – including allowances for living costs, professional expenses, transportation, housing, and child support. The movement gained traction through social media, with educators highlighting long-standing grievances and the urgent need for reform. Many contract teachers have reportedly gone unpaid for nearly two years, while others earn as little as \$200 per month—a wage deemed unsustainable amid rising living costs. Compared to other public sector workers, teachers in Iraq remain among the lowest paid, forcing many to take on additional jobs to supplement their income. The strike caused widespread disruption to schools across the country, with classrooms largely empty as teachers responded en masse to the call for industrial action. School administrators voiced serious concerns about the potential impact on the academic year, warning that prolonged action could further deepen the country's ongoing education crisis.

Source: <https://www.newarab.com/news/iraqi-teachers-launch-nationwide-strike-better-pay>

## Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has enacted a law banning face coverings in public that hinder identification, effectively prohibiting niqabs and burqas but allowing hijabs. While the government frames the move as a public safety measure and a way to reinforce national identity, rights groups and some Muslims warn it may infringe on religious freedoms. The Spiritual Administration of Muslims supports the ban, arguing Islam does not require full facial covering. Similar laws already exist in neighbouring Central Asian countries.

Source:

<https://eurasianet.org/muslims-in-kazakhstan-face-ban-on-facial-coverings-in-public-places>

## Nepal

On the 28th of June 2025, the Nepali Parliament officially passed the law of Citizenship Bill, which grants individuals the right to obtain citizenship in their mother's name, instead of solely relying on the father's identity. Nepali Home Minister Ramesh Lehak, who presented the Bill, seeks to end years of lifelong uncertainty for children born to Nepali mothers where in some cases the father's identity remains unknown. Lawmaker Prakash Jwala celebrated the Citizenship Bill as a transformative step towards further alignment with gender-equality principles. By granting mothers the right to request citizenship, the risk of statelessness is significantly reduced. Citizenship is inextricably linked to the possibility of access to essential services such as healthcare, school registration and education in the country. Minister Lehak mentioned that the bill will particularly benefit children from Nepali women working or studying abroad, who, when returning to Nepal, often find their children not legally recognized by the state.

The passage of the Citizenship Bill marks a major milestone in Nepal's history in legislation and provides hope to thousands of individuals who have long waited for legal recognition of their citizenship and have been deprived from facilities that should be state-guaranteed.

Source:

[Nepal's amended citizenship bill paves way to acquire citizenship in mother's name- even if father's identity is unknown - The Economic Times](#)

[HoR passes Citizenship Bill](#)

[Lower House endorses Citizenship Bill ending statelessness of children of Nepali mothers - Peoples' Review](#)

## Japan

On 10 July, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology held an emergency online meeting after a series of incidents of sexual violence against children sparked public outrage and concern. In Nagoya, a municipal pre-school teacher was arrested on suspicion of taking indecent photos of girls without their consent and sending them in a group chat. Authorities of the city of Nagoya have announced their plans to establish an independent panel of experts to investigate teachers at all municipal schools in Nagoya. The case came to light after the mobile phone of another municipal pre-school teacher was investigated, subsequently leading to the indictment of the teacher for various offences of sexual harassment and the discovery of the group chat. On 1 July, an expert panel of the Children and Families Agency approved a draft interim report stating the usage of security cameras in preventing sexual violence. Currently, the panel has been working on guidelines for the implementation of a law aimed at preventing sexual violence against children that will go into effect in December 2026.

Source(s):

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20250711/p2a/00m/0na/004000c>

<https://asianews.network/japans-nagoya-to-look-into-12000-teachers-following-arrests-over-secret-photography/>

## Palestine

At least eight people, including children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on Halimah al-Saadiyah School in Jabalia an-Nazla, northern Gaza. The school was sheltering about 1,000 displaced Palestinians fleeing violence. Survivors described scenes of panic, terror, and horrific casualties, with bodies of children and women found amid the rubble. The attack happened late at night while many were asleep, turning what was meant to be a refuge into a site of death and destruction. The ongoing Israeli military offensive across Gaza has worsened conditions, leaving displaced Palestinians with no safe places to go.

Source:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/7/11/beyond-horrific-several-killed-in-israeli-attack-on-north-gaza-school>





## South Korea

On 14 July, it was announced that the 17-month boycott by South Korean medical students has come to an end. The boycott was a response to a proposal by the previous administration to increase admissions due to the increasing demand in South Korea's rapidly ageing society. Thousands of medical students voiced their opposition and argued that an increase in admissions would lead to a decline in the quality of medical education due to the limited amount of resources and subsequently the decline in quality of medical care. Other medical staff, including junior and senior doctors, joined the protest to show solidarity, leading to the cancellation of hundreds of medical treatments. While the students showed their concern over the possible decline of the quality of education, the situation is part of a bigger issue as South Korea's healthcare sector is struggling with salary and working condition problems. As most of the medical students return to school, a large group of doctors continue their strike.

**Source(s):**

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/east-asia/south-korea-medical-students-end-class-boycott-5236751>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/south-korean-medical-students-to-return-to-school-urge-education-reforms>

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/south-korea-doctor-strike-protest-enrolment-quota-school-admissions-4437241>

## Syria

Armed clashes erupted on 13–14 July 2025 in Suwayda Governorate, southern Syria, primarily between Druze militias and Sunni Bedouin tribes, after a Druze vegetable vendor was assaulted at a makeshift Bedouin checkpoint, triggering a cycle of retaliatory kidnappings and fierce confrontations that killed at least 30 people and injured around 100, according to Syria's Interior Ministry; the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported as many as 99 deaths. The violence spread into the city itself, marking the first such outbreak since the Assad regime fell, prompting deployment of Interior Ministry and Defence forces to restore order, impose curfews, and pursue perpetrators. Israeli jets also struck Syrian army tanks in the area, citing protection of the Druze minority near its border. A ceasefire was later declared after the military reached an agreement with local Druze dignitaries, though the city remains tense amid mistrust of the new Islamist-led government, continued security force presence, and calls for dialogue to prevent further sectarian escalation.

**Source:**

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/mena/2025/07/14/at-least-30-killed-in-armed-clashes-in-syrias-suwayda/>

## Syria

The Syrian Minister of Administrative Development and the Minister of Education have initiated coordinated efforts to reinstate thousands of former public sector employees – primarily teachers – who were previously dismissed during the tenure of the now-deposed Bashar al-Assad regime. On 15 April 2025, the Ministry of Human Development announced the reinstatement of over 14,000 former educators and administrative staff, following a comprehensive review of their professional qualifications, geographic placement, institutional needs, and areas of expertise. Many of those reinstated had been removed from their positions for participating in anti-government demonstrations. This move is part of a broader national transition under President Ahmad al-Sharaa, who has pledged to revitalise state institutions, restore economic stability, and re-establish constructive international relations following more than a decade of conflict and instability.

**Source:**

<https://www.newarab.com/news/syrian-ministries-reinstate-employees-dismissed-under-assad>

## The Philippines

During a public hearing held on 8 April 2025, Senator Win Gatchalian, chair of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, called on the Department of Education to fully enforce the Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) subject in the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum for the upcoming 2025–2026 academic year. His appeal comes amid growing concern over rising cases of bullying in schools across the Philippines. Gatchalian cited alarming data from the 2018 and 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which showed the Philippines recording the highest incidence of bullying among 75 participating countries. To address this, he emphasised the importance of instilling values such as respect, empathy, and discipline early in a child's education. Under the GMRC and Values Education Act, the curriculum is revised to prioritise character development and ethical behaviour, with a strong emphasis on qualified instruction and a school-wide approach. The law also requires an annual review of outcomes to ensure its effectiveness. Gatchalian stated that promoting positive behaviour through values education is key to creating safer and more nurturing learning environments for all students.

**Source:**

[https://web.senate.gov.ph/photo\\_release/2025/0408\\_00.asp](https://web.senate.gov.ph/photo_release/2025/0408_00.asp)



# EUROPE

## Bulgaria

In Bulgaria, students protested against the increase in tuition fees for paid education at universities. The protest, titled 'Education is a right, not a privilege!', saw organisers voice their concerns regarding the steep increase in tuition fees and argue that the increase is 'an attack on the right to education'. According to the organisers of the protest, there is an increase of 200% in some faculties. In response to the students' concerns, the Minister of Education and Science, Krasimir Valchev, claims that the increase in tuition fees is the result of the increase in subsidies for universities. Additionally, the Minister reassures that the fees will be adjusted to prevent a sudden sharp increase and revealed legal revisions introducing a cap to ensure financial predictability for students.

### Source(s):

<https://epicenter.bg/en/article/Studentite-izlizat-dnes-na-protest--ministar-Valchev-vnasya-predlozhenie-zamalyavane-na-taksite/392512/2/0>

<https://bnr.bg/en/post/102182148/students-in-sofia-stage-a-protest-against-higher-tuition-fees>



## Estonia

The Ministry of Education has announced that, starting 1 September 2025, Estonia will transition to a partially paid vocational education system, impacting approximately 3,000 of the country's 25,000 vocational students and marking a significant change in the educational landscape. Tuition fees will apply to individuals who completed vocational school within the past five years or earned a university degree less than ten years ago. These learners must now cover the costs of retraining in new fields such as agriculture, tailoring, handicrafts, auto mechanics, or masonry. Depending on the field of study, the cost per credit will range from €35 to €85, except for music and art programmes, where it will be significantly higher—between €200 and €215 per credit. The potential impact of these changes on student enrolment and the availability of courses remains uncertain at this time. Tuition will also apply to all Russian-language vocational programmes, based on concerns that continued instruction in Russian limits students' future academic and career prospects due to insufficient Estonian proficiency.

- ◆ While the introduction of tuition aims to create a more sustainable funding model, vocational education in Estonia will still face a €5 million funding gap.

### Source:

<https://news.err.ee/1609654163/vocational-school-no-longer-free-for-recent-vocational-higher-education-grads>



Students will protest today as Minister Valchev proposes reducing fees





## Germany

In Germany, the Federal Minister of Education, Karin Prien, proposed a quota limiting the number of immigrants at German schools. The proposal has been met with both support and concerns regarding possible discrimination against children with an immigrant background. Critics recognise insufficient knowledge of the German language as a hindrance to quality education; however, they emphasise that performance problems are not limited to those with an immigrant background, as it is a persistent issue throughout the education system, where students fail to meet educational standards. Stakeholders argue that the decline in performance should be addressed early on in pre-school education; however, Germany struggles with a shortage of around 125,000 pre-school teachers. Additionally, experts are concerned about the proposal's implied discrimination and believe it to be unattainable. While the quota has faced criticism, another proposal has received some support. The Bundesschülerkonferenz (federal students' body) agrees with the implementation of a German aptitude test but underlines that the test must be compulsory for all children in Germany and not just for those with an immigrant background.

### Source(s):

<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-debates-quota-for-immigrant-students/a-73242046>

## Poland

Poland's Constitutional Tribunal ruled that the government's plan to reduce Catholic religion classes in schools from two hours to one is unconstitutional, citing a lack of agreement with the Church. The court argued this violated laws requiring cooperation between the state and religious groups on education matters. However, the education ministry, led by Barbara Nowacka, says it will proceed with the cuts, calling two hours "excessive" and noting the ruling comes from a court it views as illegitimate due to politically tainted appointments under the previous PiS government. This is the third such ruling the current government has dismissed. The Catholic Church, which provides the curriculum and teachers for the optional but widely attended religion classes, welcomed the ruling and warned it may seek international legal action if the cuts go ahead.

### Source:

<https://notesfrompoland.com/2025/07/04/constitutional-court-rules-against-polish-governments-cuts-to-religious-teaching-in-schools/>

## Netherlands

The Netherlands Bureau of Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) announced on the 8th of July 2025 that the average development of pupils reasonably differs amongst schools in the country. It has been concluded that, on average, pupils make less progress at schools where teachers have been employed for a relatively short period of time likely due to the temporary disruption caused by staff changes.

In addition to the effect of frequent teacher changes, the study also found that parents' educational fulfillment and income influences the progress of primary school children and therefore ultimately the school's advice children receive at the end of their primary education.

In the first place, the report shows that when teachers change schools more frequently, this is linked with lower learning gains among pupils at the schools concerned within the five major cities (G5). A report by Kennisrotonde in November 2024 which addresses the same subject mentions that the problem is not limited to primary education in the Netherlands and similar results have been observed in secondary education in the country.

### Source:

[Frequent staff changes linked to lower learning progress in primary education | NL Times](#)

[Verschillen in leerwinst tussen basisscholen | CPB.nl](#)

## Portugal

Students from private schools once again achieved the highest secondary exam results, with the first state school appearing only in 33rd place nationally. Out of 448 public state schools and 76 private schools, the highest-ranked state institution is Escola Básica e Secundária Dr. Ferreira da Silva in Oliveira de Azeméis. Among the top 30 state schools, most are located in the north, underscoring a clear north-south divide. In contrast, the bottom of the national table comprises nine public schools and one private school—all situated in the Lisbon metropolitan region and exhibiting negative national averages. These schools typically enrol a higher proportion of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, a factor closely linked to lower academic performance. Ministry of Education data shows that students who do not receive School Social Support (ASE) consistently outperform their economically disadvantaged peers who qualify for ASE. Notably, the state institution Escola Secundária da Baixa da Banheira in Vale da Amoreira, Moita, is at the bottom of the ranking, with student failure and dropout rates more than double the national average.

### Source:

<https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/2025-04-04/private-schools-continue-to-outperform-public-schools-in-portugal/96685>



# NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

## Argentina

In Argentina, the scientific community is facing an unprecedented crisis as President Javier Milei's sweeping austerity measures have led to severe cuts in public research funding. Scientists at prestigious institutions have seen their salaries plummet, with many forced to take side jobs as Uber drivers, electricians or teachers just to survive. The government's decision to freeze new hires, suspend journal access, and slash equipment budgets has left researchers unable to continue their work effectively. This has triggered a growing "brain drain," as highly trained professionals seek opportunities abroad to avoid their skills going to waste. Despite the dire circumstances, many researchers remain committed to their work out of passion and a belief in the public value of science, even as they face what some have described as a campaign of "scientificide".

**Source:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jul/07/argentinian-scientists-work-side-jobs-javier-milei>

## Brazil

On 8 July 2025, a 16-year-old armed with a knife entered a school in Estação, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil by claiming he was delivering a résumé; he stabbed and killed a 9-year-old student, injured another child and a teacher, and was promptly detained—he had no prior criminal record but was receiving psychological treatment and was recognised by teachers. In the wake of the attack, classes in the municipality were suspended indefinitely while authorities launched an investigation into the unclear motive. Estação's mayor, Geverson Zimmermann, and Governor Eduardo Leite condemned the violence, calling for enhanced school safety measures.

**Source:**

<https://apnews.com/article/brazil-school-attack-8d529657d59f5f58bceb98bd7b506e8f>



## Barbados

In Barbados, the nation's largest teachers' union is sounding the alarm over ongoing structural and maintenance issues in public schools, warning that without urgent reforms, students and teachers could return in September to unsafe learning environments. While the Education Technical Management Unit (ETMU) has made notable improvements in addressing minor repairs throughout the school year, the Barbados Union of Teachers insists this is not enough. They're calling for the establishment of a permanent, fully staffed maintenance department equipped with qualified professionals to ensure timely and high-quality repairs. Concerns also persist over late funding disbursements that delay summer maintenance projects and compromise work quality. As schools close for the long vacation, the union is pressing the Ministry of Education to act now, before short-term fixes give way to long-term risks.

**Source:**

<https://barbadostoday.bb/2025/07/11/union-schools-face-maintenance-crisis-without-repair-system-overhaul/>





## Colombia

Over 7,000 public schools across Colombia are at risk of indefinite closure starting 14 July 2025, as the National Union of Education Workers (Sintrenal) moves ahead with plans for a nationwide strike. The union is protesting the government's failure to fulfil long-standing wage commitments to non-teaching staff, such as security guards, drivers, and technicians, who have gone over a decade without promised salary adjustments. Frustrated by institutional silence from the Ministry of Education, the union has already launched a phased "Plan Tortuga" slowdown, disrupting administrative services and warning of full shutdowns if demands are unmet. The closures could disrupt learning for millions and impact over 100,000 workers, deepening Colombia's education and labour crisis.

**Source:**

<https://colombiaone.com/2025/07/01/colombia-schools-strike-closing/>

## United States of America

The U.S. is enduring its most severe measles outbreak since 1991, with 1,288 confirmed cases and three deaths, all among unvaccinated individuals in Texas and New Mexico—and Missouri recently became the 18th state to report an outbreak. Texas has led the surge with 753 cases (99 hospitalisations), primarily linked to a low-vaccination Mennonite community in Gaines County, while outbreaks have also emerged in at least 17 other states. Lower vaccination coverage since the pandemic—just 92.7% of kindergarteners received the two-dose MMR vaccine in 2023–24, below the 95% herd-immunity threshold, along with international travel and anti-vaccine misinformation, are key contributors. U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a known vaccine sceptic, has drawn criticism for both delaying CDC communications and reshaping vaccine advisory panels, though he has recently expressed support for the measles vaccine after child fatalities. Public health officials emphasise that measles remains entirely preventable with the highly effective MMR vaccine and urge that all eligible individuals—especially children and international travelers—ensure up-to-date immunisations to curb further spread.

**Source:**

<https://apnews.com/article/measles-outbreaks-us-mmr-vaccine-rfk-jr-518e1059923135d79a2127a02e31bac2>

## Guyana

Recently, Guyana's Ministry of Human Services and Social Security opened its first Early Childhood Development Conference under the theme 'Elevating Early Childhood Development, Strengthening Standards, Enhancing Services, and Building Partnerships'. During the conference, it was announced that a multi-sectoral early childhood development policy will be revealed with additional guidelines and an implementation plan. With the support of UNICEF and the Government of Canada, the ministry aims at improving collaboration between childhood development practitioners and to enhance early education in a holistic approach. Several issues were discussed during the conference, addressing various topics such as nutrition, parenting and ensuring a safe environment for children.

**Source(s):**

<https://guyanachronicle.com/2025/07/01/inaugural-early-childhood-development-conference-attracts-keen-interest/>

<https://www.unicef.org/guyanasuriname/press-releases/unicef-commends-guyanas-commitment-early-childhood-development>

## Vanuatu

Recently, students of Matevulu College ended their strike against the poor school administration and various ongoing concerns. Some students remain absent as they await a response from the school council. On 9 July, parents and students gathered at the school administration anticipating an update from the school council on the various issues the parents had raised; however, the administration did not respond to their concerns. Subsequently, the parents arranged a meeting with Sanma Education Office authorities and brought up the various pressing issues. The parents addressed their concerns on the poor hygiene within the school's premises, excessive outside labour, unhealthy daily meals, the derelict state of the school buildings and dormitories, school violence against the students by the staff, and (political) nepotism amongst the administration's management of ancillary staff. Currently, parents and students are still waiting for the school council's response.

**Source(s):**

[https://www.dailypost.vu/news/ongoing-concerns-as-matevulu-strike-ends-issues-remain-unresolved/article\\_0d426abd-c393-57fa-aca4-306e83cadea5.html](https://www.dailypost.vu/news/ongoing-concerns-as-matevulu-strike-ends-issues-remain-unresolved/article_0d426abd-c393-57fa-aca4-306e83cadea5.html)

[https://www.dailypost.vu/news/teachers-behind-matevulu-students-protest-principal/article\\_892f2465-ccd3-5cd7-8690-e6bbc221f3ef.html](https://www.dailypost.vu/news/teachers-behind-matevulu-students-protest-principal/article_892f2465-ccd3-5cd7-8690-e6bbc221f3ef.html)



# OCEANIA

## Australia

Australia's education sector is advocating for reduced student visa fees for short-term study programmes to boost the country's competitiveness in the global education market. Education leaders argue that the current AU\$710 (£375) visa fee creates a significant barrier for students considering short courses, particularly those from key Asian markets. The proposal, presented to the federal government on 15 July 2025, suggests introducing a tiered fee system with lower costs for courses under 12 weeks. Universities Australia chief executive Luke Sheehy emphasised that more affordable short-term study options could help rebuild Australia's international education sector, which has struggled to regain pre-pandemic enrolment levels. The move comes as competitor nations like Canada and the UK offer more flexible visa options for short-course students. Critics caution that any fee reductions must be balanced with maintaining proper visa screening processes.

**Source:**

<https://thepienews.com/australias-education-leaders-push-for-lower-student-visa-fees-for-short-term-students/>

## New Zealand

New Zealand has announced ambitious plans to double its international education market by 2034, targeting NZ\$10 billion (£4.8 billion) in annual economic value. The new International Education Strategy, launched on 13 July 2025, focuses on sustainable growth by prioritising quality over quantity and diversifying student source countries beyond China and India. Key measures include expanding postgraduate research opportunities, strengthening pathways to skilled migration, and developing specialised vocational programmes in sectors like renewable energy and agritech. Education Minister Erica Stanford emphasised the need to "future-proof" the industry while maintaining New Zealand's reputation for high-quality education. The strategy comes as the sector recovers from pandemic losses, having contributed NZ\$5 billion in 2023. Critics warn the expansion must avoid over-reliance on foreign students to fund universities, a concern highlighted by recent scandals involving accommodation shortages and exploitation of migrant students.

**Source:**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-aims-double-foreign-international-education-market-by-2034-2025-07-13/>



## Fiji

Fiji's medical educators are raising alarm over students using AI tools to complete assignments, sparking ethical concerns about academic integrity in medical training. Dr. Amelia Turagabeci of Fiji National University's College of Medicine warned that educators must stay ahead of students by adapting assessments to detect AI-generated work. This comes as Fiji's health sector faces major challenges, including staff shortages, outdated facilities, and supply issues. The government has declared healthcare a top priority, allocating over FJ\$611 million in the 2025/2026 budget. While AI is seen as transformative in medicine, educators stress it must be used wisely and ethically.

**Source:**

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/566630/medical-students-in-fiji-are-reportedly-submitting-ai-generated-assignments>

## Marshall Islands

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has launched a new humanitarian initiative in the Marshall Islands, focusing on educational support through donations of school supplies and literacy resources. Announced on 12 July 2025, the programme delivered over 5,000 textbooks, notebooks and teaching aids to under-resourced schools across Majuro and Ebeye. Local church leader Elder Taniela Wakolo emphasised the initiative's threefold approach: "listening to community needs, loving through service, and lifting through education." The donations complement existing church-run literacy programmes that have trained 120 Marshallese teachers since 2023. Education Minister Kitlang Kabua welcomed the partnership, noting its alignment with national efforts to improve English proficiency and secondary school retention rates. While the church's humanitarian work has been broadly welcomed, some educators have called for greater focus on infrastructure improvements to address chronic overcrowding in Marshallese schools.

**Source:**

<https://www.thechurchnews.com/living-faith/2025/07/12/marshall-islands-listening-loving-lifting-church-donations/>