

Special Measures for the Benefit of Immigrant Children/Pupils and those from Ethnic Minorities in Estonia

At present, non-Estonians constitute about 30% of the population and about 25% of all children of school age. Most of them live in Estonia for the second or third generation. The number of new immigrants (lived in Estonia for up to 3 years), applicants for asylum and refugees is marginal about 300 new immigrants and no refugees. Dr applicants for asylum among children of school age. The Estonian education legislation regards these pupils similarly to Estonians as subjects of education and all children of school age, except for the children of diplomatic representatives, have the obligation to attend school.

As supplementary opportunities and measures in the education organization of such children, the following possibilities exist:

- Schools with Russian as the language of instruction (the biggest national minority). the number of students in these schools constitutes about 25% of the total number of students in Estonia;
- The opportunity to learn one's mother tongue two hours per week, provided that the mother tongue (home language) of student is different from the language of instruction of the school and there are more than 10 applicants;
- Application of an individual curriculum (incl. teaching Estonian individually or in a small group);
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- Teaching Estonian (the official language);
- Free courses of Estonian to applicants for asylum and/or refugees.

Government of the Republic regulates conditions and procedure for offering students who are acquiring basic education and whose mother tongue is not the language of instruction the opportunity to learn their mother tongue and to learn about their national culture.

Ministry of Education and Research regulates procedure for studying on the basis of individual curriculum.