Türkiye Education Sector Working Group

Inter-Agency Coordination Türkiye

BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

2026-2027

Guide for Organizations
Planning to Participate in the Back to School
Outreach and Support Activities in Türkiye

September 2026

Every year since 2014, the Back to School (BTS) campaign has been implemented by UNICEF in close partnership with education sector members with a particular focus on scaling up access to quality education for all children and youth including Syrian children Under Temporary Protection (UTP).

This guide was updated by the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) Out of School Children (OOSC) Task Force comprising UNICEF, UNHCR, ASAM and Türk Kızılay from the Southeast, Istanbul and Izmir during the summer of 2026.

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IMPORANT NOTICE: Information included in this guide is subject to further revision based on guidelines from the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) or Presidency of Migration Management (PMM). ESWG OOSC Task Force will be sharing an updated version of this package should any changes occur. Organizations are encouraged to learn more about the practices in their own localities and advise beneficiaries accordingly.

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This guide has been prepared with the purpose of supporting organisations to conduct effective BTS activities ahead of the start of the new school year and suggesting tools for partners to use to collect information on the challenges faced by families during school registration processes in order to collectively agree on advocacy efforts to address these challenges.

Four main components of this guide are of relevance to organisations:

A: Key Information

to be disseminated to families and children (Messages to Rights Holders)

B: Suggested Activities

to be implemented by Education, other working groups and thematic working groups (Protection, Child Protection, Basic Needs, Health, GBV, Disability and Inclusion, etc.)

C: Data Collection

tools to identify and support the analysis of challenges in accessing education to inform potential advocacy work with relevant duty bearers and to inform program interventions

D: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

to provide organizations with potential answers to the most frequently asked questions and concerns raised by families

ACRONYMS

BİLSEM	Science and Art Centers
BTS	Back to School
CCTE	Conditional Cash Transfer for Education
DDoNE	District Directorate of National Education
EBA	Education Information Network
ESSN	Emergency Social Safety Net
ESWG	Education Sector Working Group
EU	European Union
MERNIS	Central Population Management System
MoNE	Ministry of National Education
MoFSS	Ministry of Family and Social Services
ÖSYM	Student Selection and Placement Center
PIKTES IV	Promoting Inclusive Education for Kids in the Turkish Education System
PDMM	Provincial Directorate of Migration Management
PDoNE	Provincial Directorate of National Education
PEC	Public Education Center
PMM	Presidency of Migration Management
STC	Support and Training Courses
TPID	Temporary Protection Identity Document
TPS	Turkish Public School
UTP	Under Temporary Protection
VEC	Vocational Education Center
YEI	Yunus Emre Institute
YKS	Higher Education Institutions Exam
YÖK	Higher Education Council
YTB	Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities

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KEY INFORMATION

Key messages are divided into **three areas:**

General advocacy	**(SENSITIZE)**
Concrete information about school enrolment processes and available services	**(INFORM)**
Information about the support and incentives children will/might receive in schools	**(INCENTIVIZE)**

Organizations will need to rely on their own outreach and information dissemination mechanisms to communicate these messages to refugees, host communities and relevant stakeholders.

General Advocacy and Key Messages

(SENSITIZE)

The Importance of Education

Education is a right: The right to free and compulsory schooling for everyone (regardless of gender, nationality, refugee status, economic status, physical ability, etc.) is enshrined in international and national laws. It is important that **education continues under any condition** (at school, at home, education everywhere). Education is essential for all children (girls and boys) regardless of the duration a family thinks it may stay in Türkiye or family members' physical, intellectual or language abilities.

Education plays a critical role in supporting **the developmental needs of children.** Schools provide important opportunities for children to learn, socialize, make friends, play and lead normal lives. The daily routine of going to school has been shown to have important emotional and psychosocial benefits for children.

Enrolling in and remaining in education supports **individuals' and families' future prosperity.** Research shows that higher levels of education are linked to accessing better jobs, potentially leading to higher earnings as well as greater opportunities. Being out of school will have negative effects on a child's future. Parents play a critical role in encouraging and supporting their children's education.

Research confirms that there is a correlation between **education and social cohesion.** Schools help create a sense of belonging by fostering respect and equal treatment, thus contributing to a more cohesive society which embraces diverse groups.

General Information on the Education System in Türkiye

In Türkiye, education is compulsory **for 12 years and 4+4+4 education system** is implemented (primary school: grades 1, 2, 3 and 4; lower secondary school: grades 5, 6, 7 and 8; and upper secondary school: grades 9, 10, 11 and 12) for school aged children. Children must be enrolled in formal education in Turkish public schools (TPS). Although non-formal and informal education are not alternatives to formal education, they can play a key role in supporting children's learning or preparation for/ transition to formal education.

Parents are encouraged to contact school principals if they have concerns about the performance or well-being of their children. MoNE has provided many schools with training on inclusive education and continues to take measures to facilitate the smooth inclusion of Syrians UTP and other refugee children in the formal education system. In addition, MoNE has the responsibility and systems in place to ensure every child's well-being in school.

Pre-primary education is accessible for all children aged between 36 and 68 months. **Starting to learn early supports all developmental areas of children** and their readiness for primary school. Pre-primary learning is the foundation towards a child's successful completion of a full cycle of education.

Refugees of different nationalities other than Syrians UTP can also benefit from **free education services in Türkiye.**

School Registration Process and Available Education Opportunities

(INFORM)

Registration in schools can take place starting from July. The parents need to visit the school before the start of the school year to complete the enrolment procedures. Children can be enrolled in school regardless of their ability to speak Turkish. NGOs may also provide support during the registration process in their operating area upon request. **2026-2027 school year will start on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026.** See a summary of the new school year calendar below:

Date	Activity
7-11 September 2026	School adaptation education for preschool and 1st graders
14 September 2026	Schools open
16-20 November 2026	First semester interim break
22 January 2027	The end of 1st Semester
25 January - 5 February 2027	Semester break
8 February 2027	Start of the 2nd semester
8-12 March 2027	Second semester interim break
25 June 2027	End of 2nd semester

Open Lower Secondary School and Open Upper Secondary School registrations usually start in August and end in October.You can follow the announcements about the registrations at https://aio.meb.gov.tr/ and https://aol.meb.gov.tr/

e-Equivalence

When applying for the equivalence certificate, please note that it may take a few weeks for the submitted documents to be sent to Ankara and evaluated by the provincial or district national education directorate (P/DoNE), and documents that are not notarized may be considered as incomplete documents. To apply, you must follow the steps given below:

1. Go to the e-equivalency web page https://edenklik.meb.gov.tr/?culture=en-US which is available in Turkish, English, Arabic, German, French, Russian and Persian.
2. Follow the instructions on the web page and enter the required information.
3. At the end of the application the system will give the applicant an appointment (date and time) in a P/DDoNE that is closest to the given address.
4. Applicant then should be present for the given appointment time in order to receive his/her equivalency certificate. His/her documents will be evaluated until the appointment day and time and the applicant will be able to directly receive a certificate.
5. If the documents and/or the information was found to be insufficient by the equivalency commission, the commission may request further documents and/or information.

Preschool and Grade 1: (Primary School)

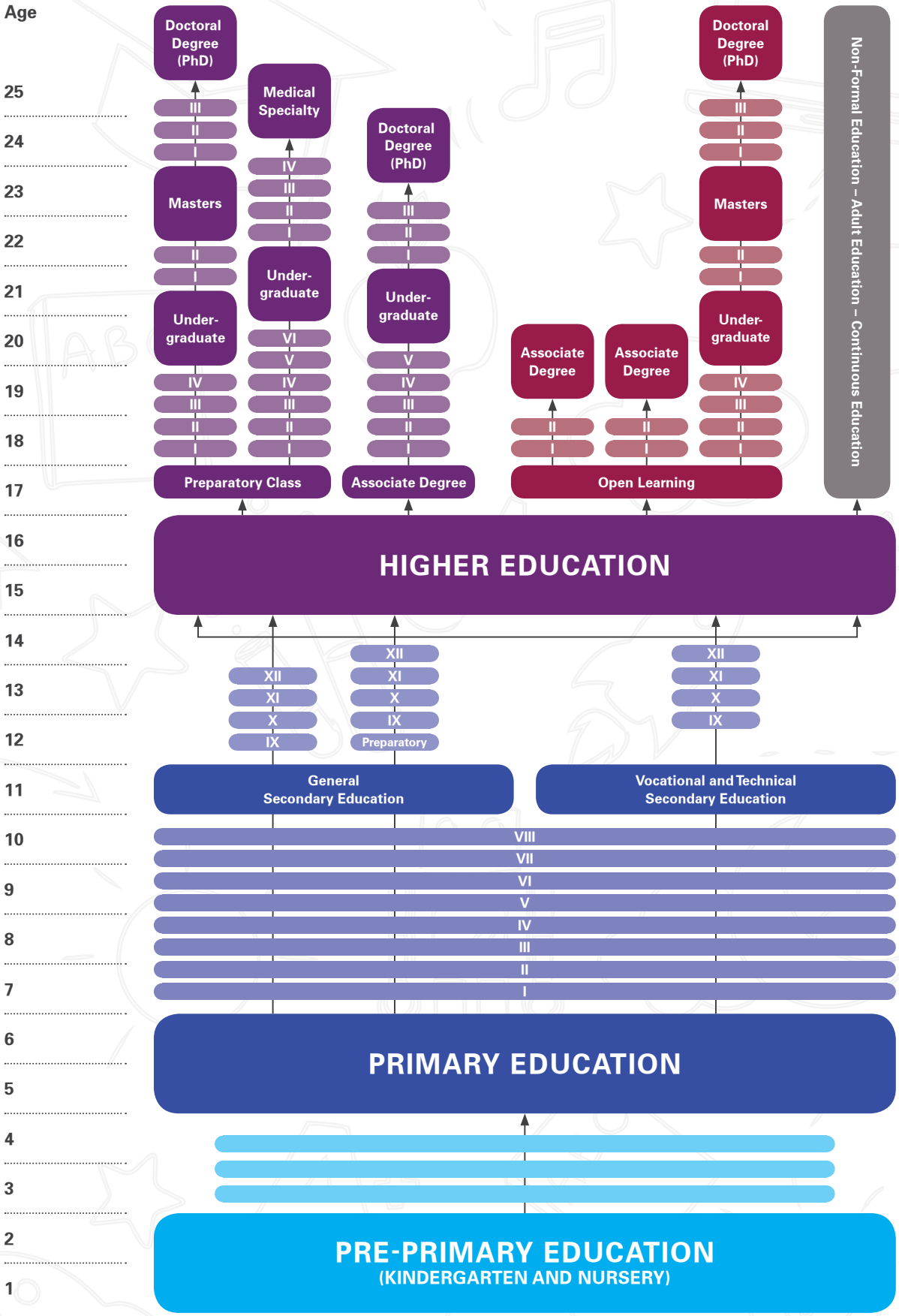
Children can attend preschool starting from the age of 36 months. At the age of 69 months (5.5 years old) children must be enrolled in Grade 1. 2026-2027 School Year school starting age is calculated as end of September (30/09/2026). To learn which grade your child can be registered, use the link: https://e-okul.meb.gov.tr/yasHesap.aspx

When children reach compulsory school age, they should be automatically assigned to the nearest school by MoNE if Turkish family's address is recorded in Central Population Management System (MERNIS). To learn about the school to which the child has been assigned, the MoNE website https://e-okul.meb.gov.tr/ or the e-Devlet link https://www.turkiye.gov.tr/milli-egitim-ilkogretim-okullari-adrese-gore-kayit-okulu-sorgulama-e-kayit can be used. The families can also find out which school the child has been assigned to by enquiring at a local public school. They can speak to the assistant principal in charge of registrations.

If Syrians UTP and other refugee children are 57 months or older and cannot see the school assigned from the above links, they can apply to the nearest TPS for preschool or primary school registration. For school registration, Temporary Protection Identity Document (TPID), showing that the family is registered to that province, is requested. Other foreign nationals can register with residence permit document or foreigner ID card. Address updates are made by Provincial Directorates of Migration Management (PDMM).

PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION AGE TABLE (2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR)				
BIRTH MONTH OF CHILD		**How many months child will be as of September 2026**	**1st GRADE REGISTRATION**	**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**
2020	MARCH	78	Mandatory.	Cannot register
2020	APRIL	77	Mandatory. Can be postponed with the report of Guidance and Research Center (RAM). A hospital report is required to apply RAM for postponement.	Students who certify that they are not ready to start primary school with a "Single Physician-Signed Medical Status Report" are allowed to continue their preschool education for one more year in line with the Special Education Assessment Board Report (SEABR).
2020	MAY	76		
2020	JUNE	75		
2020	JULY	74		
2020	AUGUST	73		
2020	SEPTEMBER	72		
2020	OCTOBER	71		
2020	NOVEMBER	70	Mandatory. Registration can be postponed by parent petition.	Children can be registered with 1st Grade Registration Cancellation Document. Priority will be given for final registration.
2020	DECEMBER	69		
2020	JANUARY	68		
2021	FEBRUARY	67	Not mandatory. Registration can be made by parent petition.	Children can be registered by applying to the school with Candidate Registration Form. Priority will be given for final registration.
2021	MARCH	66		
2021	APRIL	65		
2021	MAY	64	Cannot register.	
2021	JUNE	63		
2021	JULY	62		
2021	AUGUST	61		
2021	SEPTEMBER	60		
2021	OCTOBER	59		
2021	NOVEMBER	58		
2021	DECEMBER	57		
2021	JANUARY	56		
2022	FEBRUARY	55		Children can be registered by applying to the school with Candidate Registration Form. Registration is subject to availability after the final registration of children over 57 months.
2022	MARCH	54		
2022	APRIL	53		
2022	MAY	52		
2022	JUNE	51		
2022	JULY	50		
2022	AUGUST	49		
2022	SEPTEMBER	48		
2022	OCTOBER	47		
2022	NOVEMBER	46		
2022	DECEMBER	45		
Children born between January 2023 and September 2023		44-36	Cannot register.	Registration is subject to availability

Turkish National Education System



Grade 5 (Lower Secondary School):

Students completing 4th grade in 2025-2026 school year will be assigned to the nearest lower secondary school to their addresses on MERNIS and should visit that school before the beginning of the schools. To learn about the school to which the child has been assigned and its contact information, the MoNE website https://e-okul.meb.gov.tr/ or the e-Devlet link https://www.turkiye.gov.tr/milli-egitim-ilkogretim-okullari-adrese-gore-kayit-okulu-sorgulama-e-kayit link can be used. The families can also find out which school the child has been assigned to by enquiring at a local public school. They can speak to the assistant principal in charge of registrations.

If the student wants to move to an imam hatip lower secondary school or a private school, it is required to visit the schools directly to register. Some schools can administer an exam to identify the students. Exam dates can be found on school websites.

Grade 9 (Upper Secondary School)

Transition to high schools is administered through central, local and boarding school placement. The central placement is carried out for schools (science high schools, social sciences high schools, Anatolian high schools, Anatolian imam hatip schools, project schools and vocational and technical Anatolian high schools' Anatolian technical programs) that accept students through central examination according to the central exam score superiority in line with choices. The local placement is carried out by provincial and district education directorates according to the type, quota and location of the schools in the secondary education registration areas in line with the criteria of the residence addresses of the students, the superiority of the school success score and the low number of absent days without excuse. You can reach the 2026 Transition to Secondary Education Preference and Placement Guide from https://cdn.eba.gov.tr/yardimcikaynaklar/genel/2026-yili-ortaogretime-gecis-tercih-ve-yerlestirme-kilavuzu.pdf

Additionally, in order to provide comprehensive information to families, MoNE published the "Preference Process Student and Parent Information Guide": https://www.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2026_07/09181142_LGSKATALOG_DuYzeltme_2.pdf The school choices can be made by the student and their parents at https://e-okul.meb.gov.tr or from any secondary or imam hatip secondary schools. The choices must be approved by the school administration.

Aptitude Tests are held by schools for placement in science high schools that are project schools, fine arts high schools, sports high schools, and Anatolian imam-hatip high schools that implement music, hafiz, traditional and contemporary visual arts, sports programs/projects. The application guide for schools accepting students with aptitude test can be reached at https://www.meb.gov.tr/meb_iys_dosyalar/2026_06/01131539_YETENEK_SINAVIYLA_OGRENCI_ALAN_OKULLAR_KILAVUZU.pdf

Students who choose boarding schools and are not placed in any of their choices within the scope of local placement are placed in boarding schools, provided that it does not exceed the school's boarding quota (girls and/or boys) and the total vacant quota remaining after the local placement.[1]

EBA (Education Information Network)

EBA is an online education platform for students, teachers, and parents with specific features for each group. The system is designed to appeal to all students with different teaching methods such as verbal, numerical and visual. Educational content and materials produced by teachers can be shared with students. It also offers an interactive and social class/lesson environment with active participation.

For students, there are services like customized learning environments and interfaces according to the student, student-specific calendars, additional publications and resources, controlled games, access to all course content, repetition of lessons learned, question and exam banks, access to teacher support outside school.

For parents, the system provides an academic follow-up of the student, the opportunity to follow the exam dates and studies of the child, following the development of the child with the reports generated by the system and monitoring the performance of the child in school subjects.

For teachers, the system access to all course content, content and question pools compatible with MoNE curriculum, special course content for interactive whiteboards, monitoring and supporting students, detailed development reports on the basis of a class and by student, directing students to specific needs. EBA provides services such as courses, programs, and a distance learning environment to develop professional knowledge and skills, as well as the ability to send assignments, activities, discussions and projects.

[1] Placement is evaluated according to the provisions of the Regulation on Boarding, Scholarship, Social Aid, and School Hostels in Public Schools affiliated with the Ministry of National Education.

MoNE is delivering distance education by broadcasting lessons on TRT EBA channel for preschool, primary school, lower secondary school and high school students. To access the TRT EBA broadcasting; a cable/satellite TV or a private TV subscription is necessary. Every week, a weekly lesson schedule of courses published through https://www.trt.net.tr/yayin-akisi and EBA website https://www.eba.gov.tr/ for grades 1 to 12. Each course is 30-minute and covers the general TPS curriculum such as: Turkish, life sciences, social sciences, English, mathematics, science, history and physical education. TRT EBA lessons are broadcasted 24/7; including solutions to questions and lecturing for students preparing for high school and university entrance exams.

Access to EBA Online is only possible with an internet connection from the http://www.eba.gov.tr/#/anasayfa link. All students who are registered in the MoNE system have access to EBA Online. Students can enter the EBA system with their ID number and a password. All students have their own personalized page where they can track their lessons, homework and other activities.

Vocational Education Centers

Vocational Education Center (VEC) programmes are being delivered in all 81 provinces providing education in 39 areas in 193 branches. The theoretical training is given for 1 day a week at VECs while on-the-job training is provided for 4 days in a workplace environment.

The VEC programme can be implemented both in VECs and in Vocational and Technical Anatolian High Schools. VECs accept applications year-round.

Requirements for enrollment to VECs:

- At least graduation from lower secondary school (8th grade),
- At least 14 years old (no upper-age limit),
- Being healthy and psychically fit to accomplish the requirements of the selected vocation,
- Signing a contract with a workplace related to the profession to be registered (The workplace where the contract will be signed must have a master with a Master Trainer Certificate),
- For Syrians UTP and other foreign nationals: If 8th grade graduation is documented, they can be enrolled to the high school diploma programmes in VECs, if 8th grade graduation cannot be documented or proved, they can be enrolled to the VEC programme but will not be able to receive high school diploma, they would only receive mastership certificate and business license upon graduation.

VECs are a part of formal and compulsory education system in Türkiye and students can receive a high school diploma after completion. When graduated, they also receive technician title, mastership certificate, a business license to open their own workplaces and Europass Certificate in their field of mastership.

Students are insured by the VEC against occupational accidents and diseases during their apprenticeships. At grades 9, 10 and 11, VEC students receive an amount of at least 30% (at grade 12 at least 50%) of minimum wage.

Transition to Higher Education

In Türkiye, individuals under both international protection and temporary protection have the right to benefit from higher education. However, access to university requires taking an entrance exam. According to the Higher Education Council (YÖK) decision, as of 2026, students under international protection and temporary protection who graduate from high schools in Türkiye are required to take the Higher Education Institutions Examination (YKS) administered by Measuring, Selection and Placement Center (ÖSYM) for university placement. YKS applications are generally submitted between February and March. For application dates, requirements and the YKS Guide, please visit www.osym.gov.tr.

Free YKS preparatory courses are available at public education centers (PEC). Additionally, YKS modules are also available on the YTB Academy website of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB): https://akademi.ytb.gov.tr/

To enrol in an associate or bachelor's degree programme, students generally need to:

- Have a valid Foreigner Identification Number (starting with 99 or 98);
- Have completed secondary education (12th grade);
- Take the YKS; and
- Submit the documents required by the relevant university.

Tuition fees and admission requirements vary by university and programme.

General information on higher education is also available from the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) at www.yok.gov.tr.

Several organizations provide higher education scholarships that may be available to students under international protection and temporary education, including UNHCR, the Presidency for Turks and Aborad (YTB), International Center for Migration and Policy Development (ICMPD) and Hacıbayram Veli University. UNHCR implements the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme for non-Syrians. In addition, eligible students may benefit from Higher Education Cash Grants (HECG), a semester-based cash grant programme subject to funding availability and eligibility criteria. Updated information on both programmes is available on the UNHCR Help Page at: https://help.unhcr.org/turkiye/information-for-non-syrians/education/.

Students are also encouraged to regularly check scholarship announcements on the official websites and social media accounts of Türkiye Scholarship Programme, implemented by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), for scholarship opportunities available to international students. Further information is available at: https://www.turkiyeburslari.gov.tr/

Any additional calls for applications for the DAFI and HECG programmes for Syrian students, implemented by YTB in cooperation with UNHCR, will also be announced on the UNHCR Türkiye Help Page and the Türkiye Scholarships website.

Other opportunities include the European Union Scholarships Programme, implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). Further information is available at: https://euburs.org/ Students may also consult the European Union Scholarship Programme for Prospective Students (ESPS), implemented by Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University. Further information is available at: https://esps.hacibayram.edu.tr/ab-burslari/

Potential Assistance Families and/or Children May Receive

(INCENTIVIZE)

Conditional Cash Transfer for Education

The Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programme is a national social assistance programme implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) and Ministry of National Education (MoNE) since 2003, which was extended to Syrian and other refugee families with the support of the European Union (EU) in mid-2017. The CCTE programme is funded by EU and implemented through the cooperation of MoFSS, Türk Kızılay and MoNE. The programme aims to encourage enrolment and improve school attendance of children. The CCTE programme also includes important child protection component that will ensure the identification and assessment of the most vulnerable refugee children and their referral to complementary child protection services, as required.

Syrians and other refugee children who are enrolled in TPSs can benefit from the CCTE programme. CCTE offers cash assistance every two months to eligible families' KIZILAYKARTs if their children attend school regularly (at least 80% attendance in a school month). In addition to the transfers on the condition of regular attendance, school-beginning additional and motivational payments are also provided to all children enrolled in the programme at the start of each semester. The conditional payments are based on grade and gender, the higher grades and girls are paid higher amounts, whereas motivational payments are based on school level, the higher levels are paid higher amounts.

While the number of children benefiting from CCTE was 56,245 when the program started in May 2017, it reached 350,518 (52% girls and 48% boys) in May 2026.

See the summary of the CCTE programme payments in the below table:

Regular monthly payments	Amount (per school month regularly attended)	Conditionality
Grade: From Preschool to 8		Conditional on attendance (made in every two months; Jan, March, May, July, Sep, and Nov)
Girls	300 TRY	
Boys	270 TRY	
Grade: From 9 to 12		
Girls	450 TRY	
Boys	390 TRY	
Additional + Motivational Payment	**Amount** (at the start of semester)	Not conditional on attendance (made at the start of semester, September and January to all CCTE children)
Grade: From Preschool to 4	500 TRY	
Grade: From 5 to 8	1000 TRY + 1000 TRY	
Grade: From 9 to 12	2000 TRY + 1500 TRY	

Applications for the CCTE Programme can be made through the Turkish Red Crescent Service Centers or Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF) in the district where the family's official address is registered. More information on the pre-application conditions, eligibility criteria and application process for this assistance, as well as assistance amounts, can be found on https://platform.kizilaykart.org/en/sey.html website or by calling the TRC 168 Call Center.

Other Assistances

- An adaptation class program is conducted for refugee students studying in Grade 2 in 29 provinces (Adana, Adiyaman, Afyon, Ankara, Antalya, Batman, Bursa, Corum, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Eskisehir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaras, Kayseri, Kilis, Kocaeli, Konya, Malatya, Mardin, Mersin, Nevsehir, Osmaniye, Sakarya, Samsun, Sanliurfa and Yalova) where Promoting Inclusive Education for Kids in the Turkish Education System (PIKTES IV) project is implemented. Support Education is provided for refugee students in primary school 3 and 4, lower secondary school 5, 6, 7 and 8, upper secondary school 9, 10, 11 and 12 classes in social, cultural, sports and informatics areas; Turkish Remedial Education is conducted for refugee students studying in grades 3-12 to improve their Turkish reading, writing, listening and speaking skills and to compensate for their learning deficiencies; Remedial Education After Adaptation Classes Program is carried out for primary school 3 and 4. In addition, Arabic Support Courses are organized for refugee students to support mother language learning from 2nd to 12th grades. Both in summer and school period, Turkish and Arabic courses are organized by Turkish instructors to improve the students' language skills.

  Within the scope of PIKTES IV, books, worksheets, and other course materials are provided for face-to-face education; course videos, interactive and digital materials are offered for online education to improve refugee students' Turkish and Arabic language levels.

  Within the scope of PIKTES IV, exams are held to determine the language proficiency and academic performance of refugee students.

  Within the scope of PIKTES IV, activities are carried out for Turkish and refugee students who need special education and guidance services, in line with inclusive education.

  Within the scope of PIKTES IV, social, art, and sports activities are organized for Turkish and refugee students and their families' social integration. Programs aimed at social integration are also being prepared.
- School books are distributed free of charge by MoNE through schools at the beginning of the school year.
- Syrian and refugee students can benefit from catch-up lessons organized by many schools, NGOs and community centers during weekends. PECs and Yunus Emre Institutes (YEI) also offer Turkish language lessons upon request. You can find links to YEI's Turkish teaching portal and video lessons at https://yee.org.tr/tr
- Many TPSs organize free courses for students after school hours. Support and Training Courses (STC) are offered during the academic year and summer holiday. You can find detailed information about STC and summer schools at https://e-kurs.meb.gov.tr/Dosya/2026_2027_DYK_Kilavuzu.pdf

- Children with special educational needs can also be enrolled in schools and receive the guidance required to enable them to benefit from available education opportunities. Applications to Guidance and Research Centers (RAM) in their district can be made by schools or parents. The address of the RAMs can be found in the list on this website: https://mebbis.meb.gov.tr/KurumListesi.aspx
- Social and Economic Cohesion through Vocational and Technical Education Project (SEUP) encourages Syrian UTP and Turkish host communities towards vocational education by improving social and economic cohesion, employability, and qualifications. The project goals are:
  • Providing high-quality and accessible vocational and technical education,
  • Improving educational facilities,
  • Raising awareness on the opportunities that vocational and technical education offer and providing support to increase education continuity,
  • Improving the access to inclusive and high-quality vocational and technical education for Syrian UTP and Turkish students (between the ages of 14-17) for in-demand jobs in the labor market.
  SEUP provides transportation, lunch, school clothing, school bags and stationery for students. The detailed information on the project can be found on https://seupprojesi.com.tr/ website.
- The Vocational Education and Training Programme for Employment (VET4JOB-II) is implemented by Expertise France and EDUSER in collaboration with MoNE and the Turkish Confederation of Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK), with support from the European Union. VET4JOB-II aims to facilitate access to sustainable livelihoods and registered employment for both youth and vulnerable adults among individuals under international and temporary protection, as well as host communities in Türkiye, by supporting their vocational skills in line with labor market needs. The target groups of the project are:
  • Young people aged 14-22 who do not attend formal education
  • Vulnerable adults who cannot find work due to lack of vocational skills
  • Private sector (SMEs and workplaces that train apprentice students and eligible to train apprentice students)
  • Vocational Education Centers
  VET4JOB-II is implemented in Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaras, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mersin, Osmaniye and Sanliurfa. The detailed information on the project can be found on https://imep.org/ website
- Science and Art Centers (BİLSEM) provides support training out of school hours to enable students who attend formal education institutions and who are identified as having special talents in the field of general talent (mental), visual arts or music, to develop and use their talents at the highest level. BİLSEM students are selected by exam from 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade primary school students.

RECOMMENDED OUTREACH AND BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

This section offers suggestions on the kinds of activities which organizations may wish to include as part of their BTS advocacy. These activities are based on discussions with organizations regularly attending the Education Sector Working Group and Child Protection Sub Sector meetings. They do not constitute a comprehensive list of all possible activities. They can be adapted in accordance with local context and organizations' capacity.

Planning a BTS activity can include the following elements:

Learn more about the local contexts in their respective locations

Disseminate information to the families of Syrian and other refugee children

Support families and children enroll in schools or benefit from other forms of education

Update your information regarding school registration processes

- Learn about other available education programs, such as VECs.
- (If feasible) Establish connections with TPSs in your area of operation to learn about their particular concerns, such as space limitations, any unique requirements, etc. to be able to refer children to these schools.
- Check the websites of MoNE, P/DDoNEs and nearby schools regularly to get up-to-date information. You can also follow them on the social media.
- Visit the P/DDoNEs in your city of operation and obtain up-to-date information on the enrolment procedures that families must follow to enroll their children. Identify (and meet, if possible) focal points to be contacted regarding possible issues with enrolment. .
- Find out what procedures should be followed for children who have never been to school or who do not have documentation showing previous school attendance.
- Ensure that you are familiar with the enrolment procedures followed for TPSs. Provincial procedures may vary, so make sure you are up to date! Check the documentation needed by refugees when enrolling their children in schools.

Host BTS information days in your offices/centers

- Organize 'information/awareness-raising' sessions in which you emphasize the children's right to education and provide concrete information about the procedures for enrolling children in schools.
- Provide information about available services, like PECs, Youth Centers or any programs provided by key stakeholders such as municipalities and NGOs in your area. For this, familiarize your staff with the available services.
- Obtain (if relevant and feasible) copies of forms that parents will have to fill in and translate them into the languages spoken by refugees so that parents understand what information they are providing.
- Display materials (posters, brochures, announcements) about available services or support programs such as CCTE, ESSN and others in your centers.
- Make the day fun for all by providing activities (e.g.: coloring competitions) for children who may be with their parents.

- If possible, print simple information sheets about the school registration procedures and provide these to parents, inviting them to further information sessions if needed.
- Share BTS messages on your social media accounts.

Work with other teams to ensure that BTS activities are mainstreamed in your organization

- Hold a meeting with your colleagues and raise awareness on the importance of collaboration across different sectors/ actors to support school enrolment.
- Provide information on schooling opportunities for Syrian and refugee children and common challenges/barriers to access to education as well as recent figures.
- Ensure that BTS messages are incorporated into ongoing activities such as community outreach and general information sessions and refugee counselling provided by your organization.

Provide practical support to families during the registration period

- If authorities require documents to enroll children in schools, you may work with local authorities to facilitate the issuing of these documents to families.
- It has been a practice among some NGOs to have staff or volunteers to accompany families to P/DDoNEs or schools to assist them by offering translation and explaining enrolment procedures requirements.
- If possible, transportation could be arranged for families from your centers to places where parents need to go to enroll their children or obtain necessary documentation.

Support the National BTS Communication Campaign

- Disseminate the social media materials to a wide range of communities as much as possible and share it through your own social media accounts. New visuals will be shared through UNICEF Türkiye's social media accounts:

  X: https://x.com/unicefturk
  IG: https://www.instagram.com/unicefturkiye/,
  FB: https://www.facebook.com/unicefturkiye,
  YouTube:https://www.youtube.com/@UNICEFTurk
  Website: https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

ESWG Back to School 2026-2027 Survey – This survey aims to determine the main challenges faced by parents/caregivers during school registration; and to understand the main reasons behind children being out of school in Türkiye. Its purpose is to support the development of corrective measures and/or advocacy with the relevant government authorities.

The beneficiaries can answer the survey via the link shared with them Also, the survey can be conducted with parents or caregivers in community centers or through household visits through phone or face to face as deemed feasible and appropriate by partners.

Organizations willing to collect data and support data analysis are requested to contact UNICEF Ankara Education Officer Yasemin Kızıloğlu ykiziloglu@unicef.org.

The KoBo link for ESWG Back to School 2026-2027 Survey will be shared soon.

Problem Log – This tool is to be used to collect specific information about cases when children are not admitted in schools or families experience difficulties in enrolling their children in schools.

Information on cases will be recorded and shared with UNICEF. The reporting organization is expected to solve the case locally, if possible. When it not possible to solve the problem at the local level, UNICEF will advocate at the central level for the solution of the problem.

To report a problem using the problem log, please use the following link:
https://okuladonus.org/okula-donus-sorun-kaydi/

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

	Questions/inquires	Recommended
1	What documentation I need to register my child?	Approach to the closest school for assistance and guidance.
2	School refused registration due to lack of physical capacity or I was told that they could not register now and to come later.	Approach the DDoNE in your district.
3	Can I register my child to another school rather than the automatically assigned one?	Children are assigned to schools based on their home address registered in the system. Changing school might be difficult for several reasons including limited capacity.
4	I was asked to pay donation/fee, what can I do?	The donation/fee is not mandatory, and this cannot be a pre-requisition for registration (Fee may be requested for some school expenses in pre-school education).
5	My child can't speak Turkish; therefore, I am concerned whether my child can keep up with the Turkish curriculum in a TPS.	Turkish language support activities/courses are provided in most of the TPSs for foreign students. Please communicate your concern with the school management. There may be some other available courses in your area provided by other agencies such as PECs and youth centers.
6	Are there any free courses that can help my child's lessons?	Schools provide free Support and Training Courses (STC). Contact the school administration.

	Questions/inquires	Recommended
7	I am worried that my child will be excluded/bullied in TPSs?	School principals and teachers are aware of this situation/risk. Keep in close contact with school management, classroom and counselling teachers to get support, monitor and report any incidents.
8	My child needs special education due to physical/intellectual disability. What can I do?	RAMs are institutions that provide free support under MoNE for children regarding special education or guidance and psychological counseling when support is needed. Referral to RAMs is made by the school for children enrolled in school.
9	Who is eligible for the CCTE Programme?	Application is open to all families regardless of their nationality. The eligibility criteria are the same for every applicant: • All members of the family must be registered in Türkiye, • The family must not have any regular income at the time of application including no high value or income generating assets, • No member of the family must have social security, • The family must have at least one school-going child at the time of application.

Türkiye
Education Sector
Working Group