

THE PLACE OF RELIGION IN EDUCATION IN LATVIA

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I. Religious instruction organised during the school hours (in lower and in secondary education) in state funded schools

I.1 Question: Religious instruction organised during the school hours (in lower and in secondary education) in state funded schools. Is – and if affirmative please refer to the provisions in the law (add the text separately) – the teaching of religion in your country organised during school time in public educational institutions: in primary education, in secondary education.

I.2 Question: What choices amongst the religious education possibilities are offered in public educational institutions, e.g. catholic religion, Islamic teaching,

Answer:

Under Article 6 of the Law on Religious Organizations², the Christian religion may be taught in state and municipal schools to persons who have requested it in a written application. It is important to note that according to the law Christian religion in accordance with the curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education and Science may be taught by teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Old Believers or Baptist denominations, if not less than 10 students of the same school have expressed their wish to study the religious teaching of the relevant denomination. Applications by minors to be taught Christian religion must be approved by parents or guardians. If the minor is under 14 years of age, the minor's parents or guardians submit the application.

Students at state-supported national minority schools may also receive education in the religion "characteristic of the national minority" on a voluntary basis.³ Other denominations may provide religious education in private schools only. Those organisations that have no rights to teach religion in schools put their emphasis on Sunday schools. For example, on Sundays parents go to mass while children aged 3 -10 years are taught in Sunday school.⁴ Many denominations have developed comprehensive system of Sunday Schools. For example the Baptist congregations in Latvia, embracing more than 6 200 members have Sunday Schools attended by approximately 5 000 children.⁵ Thus, for example, Jews or Muslims, whose religion is not mentioned in the Law on Religious Organizations, can ensure religion classes for their children.

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² Article 6. Religious organisations and education

(1) Everyone shall be entitled to acquire religious teaching, either individually or together with others in the educational institutions of religious organisations.

(2) In the state and municipal schools Christian religion may be taught to persons who have expressed such wish in a written application. Applications by minors to be taught Christian religion shall be approved of by parents or guardians. If the minor is under 14 years of age, the minor's parents or guardians submit the application.

(3) Christian religion in accordance with the curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education and Science may be taught by teachers of Evangelic Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Old Believers or Baptist denominations, if not less than 10 students of the same school have expressed their wish to study the religious teaching of the relevant denomination. The teachers shall be selected by the denomination leaders and shall be approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.

(4) In national minority schools supervised by the state or municipalities, if such is the wish of the students and their parents or guardians, it is allowed to teach the religion typical to the particular national minority in compliance with the procedure set by the Ministry of Education and Science.

(5) The teaching of Christian religion and ethics shall be financed out of the state budget.

³ Balodis R. Das Recht der Religionsgemeinschaften in Letland/ Wolfgang Lienemann.Hans-Richard Reuter (Hrsg.) Das Recht der Religionsgemeinschaften in Mittel-, Ost – und Südosteuropa/ Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden – Baden 2005. s. 246-249

⁴ <http://www.priekavests.lv/lv/izglitiba/svetdienasskola?read=3730>

⁵ Balodis R. School - Religion Relations: Republic of Latvia. - Revue. Europeenne de Droit Public, 2005; Vol. 17 (1) spring p. 397 – 408

Because of the historical predominance of Christianity in Latvia, this law provides only for the teaching of the Christian religion.⁶ The concept of Christian religious instruction does not include and cannot include the Islam or other denominations. However, it is only a question of time that we shall encounter a problem related to non-Christian religion instruction. Due to the very small amount of Muslim and Jewish students, neither the parochial management of the Muslim nor Jewish parish has been interested in teaching their faith in schools, but there are other religious organisations which have expressed interest in teaching their religion in schools, i.e. Latvian pagans (*Dievturi*), Seven day Adventist and others.⁷

Ethics is offered as an alternative to religious instruction. In Latvia if a student does not want to learn the religious teaching he has to choose teaching of ethics. Religion as subject and other for Latvia untraditional religion subjects, such as Islam are not compulsory in Latvia. Each school may offer these subjects as electives.⁸ The Standard in these subjects is formed through the coordination with the Ministry of Science and Education. Because of Latvia agreement with Holy See⁹ for Bishops' Conference of Latvia have some duties in these field.¹⁰ The contents of the education is regulated by the Law of Education, adopted in 1998. Articles 32-35 of this Law state that the contents of the subjects (lessons) is regulated by the standards of the subjects. According to the generally approved order such subjects as Religion, History of culture, Christian lesson, Ethics, Christian ethics are considered as value-educational which help to form the paradigm of education.

From September 1, 2004, either of Ethics or Religion will be offered as compulsory subjects to grades 1-3, where the parents of pupils have to choose one of the mentioned subjects beforehand. The amount of the compulsory subjects and their content¹¹ in educational programmes of the institutions run by the local governments providing general education and private educational institutions that carry out licensed general elementary or secondary education programmes of the Republic of Latvia is defined by the Regulations No.1027 of the Cabinet of Ministers of December 19, 2006 "Regulations on the State elementary education standard and elementary education subject standard" and Regulations No.715 of the Cabinet of Ministers of September 2, 2008 "Regulations on the State general secondary education standard and general secondary education subject standards" The standards of the subjects included in these regulations define the basic demands for the subjects' acquirement when finishing grades 3, 6, 9 and 12 but they do not define the order of their acquirement. In the examples of the educational programmes publicized by the State Educational Content Centre the order of the teachable subject themes is provided by school years as well as information of methodological character, nevertheless those are recommendatory documents and are not legally mandatory to the educational institutions that do not act under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Science and for this reason are not considered as instructions.

In the Christian teaching students gain knowledge and understanding about the order of the world created by God; learn to master the skills of the Christian life (praying, serving, and commonwealth); create motivation of action based on Christian values. For example, the Evangelical Lutheran Church declares that by learning the Christian teaching under democratic circumstances students will be able

⁶ Balodis R. Church and State in Latvia. *Law and Religion in Post-Communist Europe* (Ed. Silvio Ferrari, W.Cole Durham). PEETERS, LEUVEN – PARIS – DUDLEY, MA 2003 p. 168

⁷ Balodis R. State and Church in the Latvia/ State and Church in the Baltic States: 2001. - R.: Reliģijas Brīvības Asociācija, 2001.p. 36

⁸ Balodis R. The Constitutional and Administrative Aspects of State and Church Regulation in the Republic of Latvia. Religion and the Secular State. *Interim National Reports issued for the occasion of XVIIIth International Congress on Comparative Law* The international Center for Law and Religion Studies Brigham Young University Provo, Utah, Washington, D.C. 2010 p. 484

⁹ Balodis R. Church and State in Latvia. *State and Church in the European Union*. European Consortium for State and Church research, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden – Baden second ed., 2005. p. 269

¹⁰ According to the Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Holy See Article 15 the teaching of the Catholic religion shall be conducted exclusively on the basis of a programme approved by the Bishops' Conference of Latvia, in agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science, and shall be undertaken only by qualified teachers who possess a certificate of competence issued by the Bishops' Conference of Latvia; the revocation of which signifies the immediate loss of the right to teach the Catholic religion.

¹¹ <http://visc.gov.lv/saturs/vispizgl/standarti.shtml> ; <http://visc.gov.lv/saturs/vispizgl/programmas.shtml>

to create their own world outlook. According to the Law on Religious Organisations (Article 1.6.)¹² Christian teaching - the system of views, doctrines and ideas of certain Christian denominations, but religious teaching (Article 1.7.) a system of certain religious views, doctrines and ideas. According to the Law everyone shall be entitled to acquire religious teaching, either individually or together with others in the educational institutions of religious organisations, but in the state and municipal schools only Christian religion may be taught to persons who have expressed such wish. Since 1998 the Law has been supplemented by Article 6(5), which provides that religious teaching and ethics classes are financed from the state budget. By taking a broader perspective on the interpretation of the Law on Religious Organisations – Christian teaching is the teaching of the common Christian faith principles in the Bible, values and manifestations in the development of the world culture of the 5 traditional Christian confessions (Lutheran, Catholic, Baptist, Orthodox, Old-believer). Christian teaching is interdenominational; it concentrates on the essentials of Christianity, important to both the state and society. In Christ's teaching the open society model is with God in its centre and human as the highest value in it.¹³ The standard of religious teaching and ethics subjects is coordinated with the Ministry of Science and Education, therefore free practice of religion is regulated by the national Law of education.

II.3. Question: How do the authorities control the teaching in state funded denominational schools and are there any special questions about the control of the content of teaching in state-funded denominational schools? Please refer to the provisions in the law.

Answer:

Latvia has 8 private schools with religious specialization (Lutheran, Jewish and Baptist). In Latvia the control of the content of teaching in state-funded denominational schools is done by the Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry of Education and Science has the State Service of Education Quality which controls the quality of education in Latvia and monitor the observation of laws and regulations in the field of education, licences educational programmes, assesses the professional activity of teachers at the national level, gives recommendations to the State, local governments and other institutions, to ensure, contribute and improve the observation of laws and regulations in the field of education and science.

Such issues, which are currently on agenda in Scandinavia, e.g. co-educational swimming instruction for Muslim girls, are still uncommon in Latvia. According to the Ministry of Education and Science, it had not received requests yet (situation as of May 2010¹⁴) from Muslims to organize separate groups for boys and girls in the subject "Sports"¹⁵.

III. Refusal or limitations on the number of pupils of another conviction/belief by the governing board of a confessional (catholic) school or their point of view

Because of the small quantity of Muslim pupils, problems with teaching of Islam in denominational (e.g. Catholic) schools have not arisen.

VI. Religious symbols in public schools

In the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Satversme*) religion/church is mentioned in the Article 99, where state declares that: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The Church shall be separate from the State." The State does not associate itself with any specific religion, but in practice it is clear that Latvia is a partial separation state, where constitutionally declared separation of church and state does not consistently work in practice.¹⁶ But anyway Latvia is

¹² 25.09.2002., Nr.137 3.1995.gada 7.septembra Reliģisko organizāciju likums (*Law on Religious Organisations of 7th September 1995*) // Latvijas Vēstnesis 26.09.1995., Nr.146

¹³ <http://www.lslb.lv/lv/?ct=skolas>

¹⁴ The letter number 1.-12/3426 on 18 May 2010 by M. Gruskevics, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Education and Science, to R. Balodis, the Chair of the State Law Department of the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia.

¹⁵ It must be noted that the current laws and regulations allow dividing students into groups during lessons, including divisions based on gender. The division into groups, given the funding allocated to each institution, falls under the authority of the founder.

¹⁶ Balodis R. The Constitutional and Administrative Aspects of State and Church Regulation in the Republic of Latvia. Religion and the Secular State. *Interim National Reports issued for the occasion of XVIIIth International Congress on*

multiconfessional State and former Soviet Republic what's make a difference and dress code for the schools depend from the school administration and law are not interfered in these sphere. The teachers as well as schoolchildren are allowed to wear the Islamic headscarf and manifest their religion. In Latvia are no case-law in these field. Disposition of religious signs and symbols is up to the administration of each religion concerned school. The same rule applies also to Christian public schools, private schools and Judaism private schools.¹⁷ The Ministry of Education and Science admits¹⁸ that it is not legally able to determine the norms of behaviour of students in comprehensive schools, or their internal regulations, special requirements regarding teachers' or students' clothing, times of festivities or meetings etc. The code of conduct, adhering to laws and regulations, can be determined by the founders of each school – the local governments or private bodies (for private schools), confirming the internal regulations of each specific school. The use of religious symbols is up to the administration of each religiously oriented school, both in Christian public and private schools, and minority schools, for example, the Jewish private school. These norms can be determined in greater detail by the principal of each school.¹⁹

Prayer is a part of every religion, thus it is one of the practical actions to be learnt by the student. Therefore, religiously oriented schools include morning prayers, and, on religious holidays, students are welcome to go to the church on a voluntary basis.

Latvian laws and regulations do not include requirements regarding the clothing or the use of symbols by the academic personnel; these, including norms of behaviour, can be included in the internal regulations of each school by the founders of the institution of higher education or its main administrative bodies. Religious ceremonies and rituals in comprehensive schools can be done with the consent of parents, and, without their permission, no actions of religious nature can be carried about in schools.

3. Statistical information on-line of schools

In the academic year of 2010 in total, there were 948 schools of comprehensive curriculum in the state, 45 of these were primary schools, 463 – elementary schools, 377 – high schools, 63 – special schools. In Latvia only 19 denominational educational institutions have received state licence in 2009. All of them are Christian denomination. In Latvia there are no registred Islamic schools. From these 19 schools 12 are state funded schools.²⁰ The others are preschool institutions (for example, the Christian consultative and play centre of the Jesus parish "Lamb"). There are also elementary schools of untraditional religions – elementary school of Priekā vests "Harmonija"²¹ which includes grades 1 to 6.

4. Requirements for teachers of religion

In order to be able to teach Christianity, the teacher has to have a degree in pedagogy as well as they have to have graduated from or enrolled in one of the aforementioned schools (until 2009, a B1 certificate from courses of professional development was sufficient (36 hours), which were financed by the state – 17 teachers were hired by the state to teach other teachers in the whole country). Since 2004, more than 700 teachers have received the certificate asserting their rights to teach Christianity.

Comparative Law The international Center for Law and Religion Studies Brigham Young University Provo, Utah, Washington, D.C. 2010 p.476

¹⁷ Education: Latvia/Sociological and legal data on religions in Europe// <http://www.eurel.info/EN/index.php?pais=59&rubrique=658>

¹⁸ The letter number I.-12/3426 on 18 May 2010 by M. Gruskevics, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Education and Science, to R. Balodis, the Chair of the State Law Department of the Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia.

¹⁹ Taking into consideration that the standard syllabus of each subject has to be coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Science.

²⁰ Baltinava Christian special boarding elementary school, Riga Christian high school, Bauska city Christian elementary school, Talsu Christian high school, Dobele Christian elementary school, Rezekne Catholic high school, Kalnezeru Catholic elementary school, Liepaja Catholic elementary school, Riga Catholic gymnasium, Aglona Catholic gymnasium, Ogre St.Meinard's Catholic elementary school, Graveru elementary school of Riga and Latvia Metropolitan Aleksander (Kudrjasov).

²¹ http://www.priekavests.lv/lv/izglitiba/privatskola_harmonija?read=131

Until 2009, the teacher had to receive a permit from the higher leadership of their denomination under the responsibility of the parish priest (with the aim of not letting representatives of different sects into the schools). When starting work, the teachers are not asked about their religious leaning or beliefs. It's been added that according to the agreement between Latvia and Holy See Teachers and other employees in officially recognised Catholic Schools, as well as students and their parents, shall enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations as their counterparts in State and local government schools.²²

VII. After-school education in private religious institutions. Islamic instruction organised after the school hours (age 6-18)

No information available

VIII. Additional comments

It must be noted that on the 4 June 2010²³ meeting of the Council of Spiritual Affairs²⁴, chaired by the Prime Minister, the agenda included ensuring the teaching of Christian faith in schools. Discussing teaching of Christian values in comprehensive secondary schools, the representatives of religious denominations praised the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science on developing the syllabus for the teaching of Christianity. At the end of the discussion, the Council of Spiritual Affairs agreed on appealing to the schools to find extra opportunities for the representatives of the traditional religious denominations to organize guest lectures several times during the school year, including Christmas and Easter.²⁵

Additionally it should be mentioned that In Latvia, there are two types of legal agreements between the church and the State: international and national. The international agreement - and in the Latvian case there is only one – signed with the Holy See in 2000, unlike national agreements that were signed with local churches in 2004, has higher rank (legal power) than laws. Moreover we will see that the legal status of the agreements of 2004 can be called into question and for them to work are implemented in laws.

International Agreement with Holy See. The Latvian Parliament on 12 September 2002 ratified the agreement with the Holy See. In accordance with article 15 of the agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Holy See, the teaching of the Catholic religion shall be conducted exclusively on the basis of a programme approved by the Bishops' Conference of Latvia, in agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science, and must be undertaken only by qualified teachers who possess a certificate of competence issued by the Bishops' Conference of Latvia; the revocation of the certificate carries with it the immediate loss of the right to teach the Catholic religion. In accordance with this agreement Article 9 (a) “With respect to the laws of the Republic of Latvia and in view of its legitimate pastoral undertakings, to the Catholic Church shall be guaranteed freedom of access to the media and freedom of speech, including the establishment of its own means of social communication and access to those of the State, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Latvia.” According to this agreement Articles 16, 18 and 19 in conformity with the legislation of the Republic of Latvia, the Catholic Church has the right to found institutions of higher formation for teachers of religion which will grant civilly recognized diplomas. The Catholic Church has the right to establish and manage schools at every level, in conformity with the laws of the Republic of Latvia and the norms of Canon Law. The foundation of Catholic Schools shall be requested by the Bishops' Conference of Latvia the latter acting on behalf of the local Ordinary. Catholic Schools, as well as institutions of higher formation, shall observe the laws of the Republic of Latvia concerning the general norms relating to the national curriculum, to their management and the granting of civilly recognised diplomas. Catholic Schools are entitled to financial support, in accordance with the laws of

²² Balodis R. Church and State in Latvia in 2003. *European Journal for Church and State Research 2004* – Volume 11// PEETERS, Belgium 2008. p. p.162

²³ Prime Minister: Attending the meeting of the Council of Spiritual Affairs/ *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 6 June 2010

²⁴ The Council of Spiritual Affairs is an independent, consultative institution for coordinating the cooperation between the state and the church, with the aim to promote harmony and understanding among the followers of different religious denominations and beliefs in the Latvian society.

²⁵ Prime Minister: Attending the meeting of the Council of Spiritual Affairs/ *Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 6 June 2010

the Republic of Latvia. Teachers and other employees in officially recognised Catholic Schools, as well as students and their parents, shall enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations as their counterparts in State and local government schools.²⁶ Considering that issues Roman Catholic church was interested in have been included in an international agreement between the Holy See and the Republic of Latvia, no agreement was made with the Catholics and thus no special law was adopted. Agreements between the Latvian government and churches. Agreements of 2004, between the Cabinet of Ministers and churches were made due to the discontentment of the traditional churches regarding the exclusiveness of Roman Catholics that stemmed from the 2000 agreement with the Holy See. Each of these agreements has a preamble recognizing the special role of the Church in the existence of the legal system of the country and system of values of the society, as well as its significant contribution to the morale and process of socialization of the society.²⁷ In every agreement there was also implemented the right to teach religion in schools run by the state and local government. For example according to the Agreement which signed on June 8, 2004, between the Republic of Latvia and the Evangelic Lutheran Church of Latvia [article 14. Religious lessons] the Evangelic Lutheran Church of Latvia has the right to teach religious lessons in line with the regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia according to a curriculum jointly approved by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Evangelic Lutheran Church of Latvia. In others agreements with the Churches we can notice similar regulation. Although the agreements were made based on the experience of Spain, Italy, Hungary and Poland in this sphere²⁸, agreements had to be implemented in laws so that in accordance with the demands of the Latvian legal system they would acquire legal power. On the basis of the request from the Saeima Legal Office, under the leadership of the author of this article, the Ministry of Justice prepared 7 special laws which were accepted in parliament in 2007 – 2008.²⁹ The primary reason for draft laws was to strengthen relationship included in agreements of 2004 between the Republic of Latvia and its traditional churches. After long and difficult negotiations that took place between the representatives of church, deputies and legal service of the parliament it was relatively accomplished. In the end, questions regarding Sabbath were not included in the laws of Seventh-day Adventists and Judaists and the Lutheran Church did not succeed in including tax breaks in their laws.

Special Law's considering the long-standing existence and spread of the Church as a traditional religious organisation in the territory of Latvia and recognizing *'its contribution to and rich experience in the areas of society's physical and mental health, education, culture, social support and other areas.'*³⁰ Basically legal regulations regarding education in all special laws are nalaogical. So according to the Latvian Old Believers' Pomor Church Article 12. [The Church and education] Church shall have the right to educate its priests and the Church shall possess the right to provide religion lessons in state or municipal educational establishments under the procedure stipulated in the relevant laws and regulations.

Finally, when comparing the rights of traditional churches that have been established by the law, it can be seen that the Roman Catholic Church has the largest number of issues mentioned in the law regarding education, despite the face that it does not have a special law.

No	Issues in the law	Adv	Bapt.	Met	Jews	Old-B	Luth.	Orth.	Cath.
1.	Education	14.§	14.§	12.§	-	12.§	14.§	15.§	14-20.§
2.	Autonomy of	-	-	-	-	-	14.§	15.§	4. and

²⁶ Balodis R. School - Religion Relations: Republic of Latvia. - Revue. Europeenne de Droit Public, 2005; Vol. 17 (1) spring p. 397 – 408

²⁷ General presentation: Latvia/Sociological and legal dataon religions in Europe// <http://www.eurel.info/EN/index.php?pais=59&rubrique=662>

²⁸ Balodis R. The recent developments of Latvian model of Church and State relationship: Constitutional changes without revising of Constitution/ Jurisprudencija 2009, 3 (117), p-19.

²⁹ Law on Latvian Association of Seventh-day Adventist Communities: LR likums. Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2007. 12.jūnijs nr.93 (3669); Latvian Baptist Community Association Law: LR likums. Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2007. 30.maijs nr. 86 (3662); Riga Jewish Religious Community Law: LR likums. Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2007. 20.jūnijs 98 (3674); Latvian Joint Methodist Church Law: LR likums. Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2007. 6.jūlijs 91 (3667); Latvian Old-Believers Pomor Church Law: LR likums. Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2007. 20.jūnijs 98 (3674), Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Law: LR likums. Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2008. 20.novembris 188 (3972), Latvian Orthodox Church Law: LR likums. Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2008. 13.novembris 188 (3972)

³⁰ Balodis R. LAS RELACIONES ENTRE EL ESTADO DE LETONIA Y LAS ORGANIZACIONES RELIGIOSAS: DE LA REALIDAD SOVIÉTICA AL MODELO DE ESPAÑA E ITALIA. Revista General de Derecho Canónico y Derecho Eclesiástico del Estado 21 (2009) <http://www.iustel.com/v2/revistas/detalle_revista.asp?numero=21&id=2>

	content of educ. inst.								15§
3.	Educational instut. employees' rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.§
4.	Spiritual seminars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.§
5.	Dept. of Theology of the University of Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21.§

Special laws and the comparative table of the Holy See regarding issues of education.

Teaching religion in the institutions of higher education

Part 3 of Article 4 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education states that each institution can independently determine the content and standards of their study programmes. Study programmes are regulated by the description of their content and realization, which, according to the type and level of education, includes the aim of each programme, planned results, the content of offered education, compulsory subjects and electives, and the division of time among them, and the means of control and their regulations. According to Article 55 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education, one fourth of the total study programmes is determined by the senate of the highest council of the institution. Hence, it is under the authority of the founders and the highest organs of administration of each institution to include religious themes in their study programmes, determining their content, extent and order of teaching. Therefore, specific institutions should be consulted to find the share of religious themes in the total body of all study programmes.

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Number of students , who study *ethics* in grades 1 to 9 in comprehensive daily education programmes in school year 2009/2010

Region		In total	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year	5th year	6th year	7th year	8th year	9th year
41	Kurzeme region	3544	1157	1173	1168	46					
42	Latgale region	3171	992	1003	1135	41					
43	Riga region	7050	2443	2204	2303	27	11	20	9	16	17
44	Vidzeme region	4588	1530	1443	1555	54	3	1	1	1	
45	Zemgale region	4058	1411	1237	1305	44	12	12	10	13	14
10	Jekabpils	609	188	191	225		5				
25	Valmiera	1116	239	245	243	74	52	61	55	62	85
27	Daugavpils	2183	719	719	722	23					
28	Jelgava	1350	457	454	435	4					
29	Jurmala	1299	421	425	426	24			1	1	1
30	Liepaja	1543	568	469	506						
31	Rezekne	708	237	214	257						
32	Ventspils	884	265	258	323	38					
	Riga	14497	4727	4453	4375	246	129	123	194	129	121
34	Central district	1266	401	416	449						
35	Kurzeme district	3132	886	805	763	126	111	98	101	122	120
36	Latgale suburb	3422	1049	1079	1117	51	14	22	86	4	
37	Vidzeme suburb	3427	1228	1102	1097						
38	Zemgale suburb	1792	633	619	518	4	4	3	7	3	1
39	Northern district	1458	530	432	431	65					
	In the State in total:	46600	15354	14488	14978	621	212	217	270	222	238
	<i>school year 2008/2009</i>	<i>44558</i>	<i>14892</i>	<i>14900</i>	<i>13971</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>51</i>
	<i>school year 2007/2008</i>	<i>44551</i>	<i>15588</i>	<i>14033</i>	<i>13431</i>	<i>521</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>705</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>34</i>
	<i>school year 2006/2007</i>	<i>46657</i>	<i>14684</i>	<i>13546</i>	<i>13215</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>214</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>3651</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>239</i>

<i>school year</i>	<i>4042</i>	<i>1436</i>						<i>1075</i>		
<i>2005/2006</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>14092</i>	<i>243</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>220</i>

In total 226034 students have been registered in the State from grades 1-12 in the school year 2009/2010 (the number of students is decreasing, for example, in the school year 2004/2005, 300667 students were registered)