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Or. Engl.

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**

**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**LATVIA**

**EDUCATION LAW**

**AND**

**REPORT (\*)**

**ON THE INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
OF THE DRAFT LAW  
ON AMENDMENTS TO THE EDUCATION LAW**

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(\*) *Unofficial translation provided by the authorities*

Text consolidated by Valsts valodas centrs (State Language Centre) with amending laws of:

- 5 August 1999 [shall come into force from 13 August 1999];
- 11 November 1999 [shall come into force from 1 January 2000];
- 11 May 2000 [shall come into force from 6 June 2000];
- 10 May 2001 [shall come into force from 1 August 2001];
- 5 July 2001 [shall come into force from 1 September 2001];
- 20 September 2001 [shall come into force from 6 October 2001];
- 5 February 2004 [shall come into force from 27 February 2004];
- 14 September 2005 [shall come into force from 16 September 2005];
- 19 December 2006 [shall come into force from 1 January 2007];
- 13 November 2008 [shall come into force from 16 December 2008];
- 12 December 2008 [shall come into force from 1 January 2009];
- 16 June 2009 [shall come into force from 1 July 2009];
- 1 December 2009 [shall come into force from 1 January 2010];
- 4 March 2010 [shall come into force from 26 March 2010];
- 16 December 2010 [shall come into force from 1 January 2011];
- 15 December 2011 [shall come into force from 1 January 2012];
- 15 March 2012 [shall come into force from 18 April 2012];
- 5 July 2012 [shall come into force from 1 October 2012];
- 15 November 2012 [shall come into force from 1 January 2013];
- 9 July 2013 [shall come into force from 7 August 2013];
- 17 December 2014 [shall come into force from 1 January 2015];
- 18 June 2015 [shall come into force from 16 July 2015];
- 3 December 2015 [shall come into force from 11 December 2015];
- 5 May 2016 [shall come into force from 1 June 2016];
- 23 November 2016 [shall come into force from 1 January 2017];
- 27 July 2017 [shall come into force from 10 August 2017];
- 22 November 2017 [shall come into force from 1 January 2018];
- 24 November 2017 (Constitutional Court Judgment) [shall come into force from 27 November 2017];
- 22 March 2018 [shall come into force from 16 April 2018];
- 20 September 2018 [shall come into force from 18 October 2018];
- 21 March 2019 [shall come into force from 17 April 2019];
- 3 April 2019 [shall come into force from 1 May 2019];
- 30 May 2019 [shall come into force from 26 June 2019];
- 14 November 2019 [shall come into force from 1 January 2020].

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

The *Saeima*<sup>1</sup> has adopted and the President has proclaimed the following law:

## **Education Law**

### **Chapter I General Provisions**

#### **Section 1. Terms Used in this Law**

The following terms are used in this Law:

- 1) **academic education** – studies of the theoretical basis of sciences and the result of such;
- 2) **higher education** – the level of education at which, after acquisition of secondary education, the personal development rooted in science or art, or both in science and art takes place in the selected academic or professional, or academic and professional field of studies, preparation for scientific and professional activity;

2<sup>1</sup>) **formal education** – a system which includes the levels of basic education, secondary education and higher education the completion of the programmes of which is attested by an education or professional qualification document recognised by the State, as well as an education and professional qualification document;

3) **interest-related education** – implementation of the individual educational needs and desires of a person regardless of age and previously acquired education;

4) **education** – a process of systematic acquisition of knowledge and skills and development of attitudes, and result thereof. The learning process includes teaching and upbringing activities. The result of education is a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes;

5) **education support institution** – an institution founded by the State, local governments and other legal or natural persons, which ensures methodological, psychological, scientific, informative and other intellectual support to teachers, educatees, parents of educatees, and educational institutions;

6) **education document** – a document which attests to the education acquired by a person according to a particular level, type, and programme of education, or to partial acquisition of such education;

7) **educational institution** – an institution founded by the State, local governments, State higher education institutions or other legal or natural persons with the task of implementing educational programmes, or a commercial company for which the implementation of educational programmes is one of the types of activity;

8) **level of education** – a completed stage of education which includes organised and successively implemented acquisition of education;

9) **education administration institution** – a State or local government institution or a local government unit which fulfils the functions of education administration;

10) **accreditation of an educational programme** – acquisition of the rights by an educational institution or another authority specified in this Law to issue a State-recognised education document for the acquisition of education corresponding to a specific educational programme. In the course of accreditation the quality of the implementation of the relevant educational programme shall be evaluated;

11) **licensing of an educational programme** – granting of the rights to an educational institution or another authority specified in this Law to implement a specific educational programme;

12) **educatee** – a child, pupil, trainee, student, or listener who is completing an educational programme at an educational institution or with a teacher working in private practice;

12<sup>1</sup>) **career** – interaction of education, work, and private life during the life of a person;

12<sup>2</sup>) **career education** – measures integrated in the education process to ensure the acquisition and development of career management skills of educatees, including awareness of one's interests, abilities, and opportunities for the selection of the direction of further education and professional career;

12<sup>3</sup>) **career development support** – a set of measures which includes access to information, career education, and individual consultations for educatees for the determination and planning of career objectives, upon making a choice in relation to education and work;

12<sup>4</sup>) **full-time studies** – the form of acquisition of education in which an educatee is acquiring the content of education within the scope of an educational programme implemented by an educational institution, regularly attending lessons organised at the educational institution according to a specific schedule;

12<sup>5</sup>) **teaching aids** – the following to be used in implementation of an educational programme and acquisition of the education content, including to be used in the electronic environment:

a) study literature (textbooks, work exercise-books considered as equivalent thereto, and other editions provided for the acquisition of the education content which are used in the study process in the guidelines for the State pre-school education, in the acquisition of the content specified in the State basic education, general secondary education, vocational secondary education and industrial education standards);

b) methodological aids (methodological recommendations and other study editions provided for the work needs of a teacher);

c) additional literature (reference literature, cartographic editions, music editions, fiction, including children's literature and other periodicals and non-periodicals necessary for the implementation of educational programmes),

d) visual aids (graphic productions, text editions, visual materials, natural study objects, mock-ups and models in which visual or recorded information is inserted);

e) didactic games (games to be used in the study process which include tasks for the acquisition of the study content or elements for testing learning achievements);

f) digital teaching aids and resources (electronic editions and resources which include the content necessary for the implementation of educational programme);

g) handouts (exercises, schemes, work sheets, examples, samples and other materials which are provided for each educatee, individualising the study process);

h) technical teaching aids (technical equipment and devices to be used in the learning process, including technical equipment and devices provided for educatees with special needs);

i) educational materials (substances, raw materials, and objects which are used for the acquisition of the study content, carrying out practical tasks);

j) installations and equipment (devices, tools, instruments, objects, and accessories, including sports equipment with the aid of which the acquisition of the education content is ensured, guaranteeing conformity with the safety and hygiene requirements);

k) individual learning accessories [objects and aids for personal use of educatees which are used as teaching aids or in relation to the provision of learning opportunities: stationary, clothing and footwear, specific clothing, footwear and hygiene accessories necessary for the acquisition of the compulsory content of individual subjects (sports, housekeeping, and technologies, etc.), aids using which the pupil creates and object or product for his or her own needs in the learning process];

13) **programme of a subject or course** – a component of an educational programme which includes the objectives and tasks of a subject or course, its contents, a plan for acquiring the contents, the criteria and procedures for the assessment of the acquired education, as well as a list of methods and resources necessary for the implementation of the programme;

14) **standard of a subject or course** – a component of the State educational standard which determines the primary objectives and tasks of a subject or course, the compulsory content of a subject or course, and the forms and procedures for the assessment of learning achievements;

14<sup>1</sup>) **non-formal education** – educational activities conforming to the interests and demand organised outside of formal education;

14<sup>2</sup>) **extramural studies** – the form of acquisition of education in which an educatee acquires part of the contents of the educational programme implemented by an educational institution independently;

15) **basic education** – the level of education at which preparation for the level of secondary education or for professional activity takes place, the basic knowledge and skills necessary for life in society and individual life of a person are acquired, and where value-orientation and involvement in public life is developed;

16) **self-education** – education acquired outside an educational institution;

16<sup>1</sup>) **teacher** – a natural person who has the education and the professional qualifications specified in this Law or in other laws governing education, and who participates in the implementation of an educational programme at an educational institution or in certified private practice;

17) **adult education** – a multi-dimensional educational process of persons which ensures the development of the individual and his or her ability to compete in the labour market during the lifetime of a person;

18) **pre-school education** – the level of education at which multi-dimensional development of the child as an individual, strengthening of his or her health and preparation for the acquisition of primary education takes place;

19) **private educational institution** – an educational institution founded by a legal or natural person, except for a State, local government educational institution or educational institution of a State higher education institution, as well as a commercial company with a capital

share of a State, local government, or State higher education institution, for which the implementation of educational programmes is one of the types of activity;

20) **vocational education** – practical and theoretical preparation for activity in a specific profession, for the acquisition of professional qualification, and for the improvement of professional competence;

20<sup>1)</sup> **vocationally oriented education** – systematised acquisition of knowledge and skills, as well as the formation of value orientation in art, culture, or sports concurrently with the basic education or secondary education level which provides a possibility to prepare for the acquisition of a vocational education in the selected direction;

21) **professional qualification** – assessment of education and professional skill with respect to a particular profession, confirmed by documentary evidence;

22) [9 July 2013];

23) **professional qualification document** – a document which attests to the professional qualification of a person and grants the right to apply for holding a position corresponding to a specific profession and level of qualification or for the receipt of the relevant certificate for employment in private practice;

24) **special education** – general and vocational education adapted for persons with special needs and health problems, or with special needs or health problems;

25) **further education** – continuation of the previously acquired education and improvement of professional skill according to the requirements of the specific profession;

26) **distance learning** – the form of the acquisition of education in which an educatee acquires the contents of an educational programme implemented by an educational institution independently and individually, using specially structured study materials offered by the educational institution, different technical and electronic means of communication. Achievements of the educatee are assessed according to the requirements of the relevant educational programme;

26<sup>1)</sup> [5 May 2016];

27) **State education standard** – a document which determines the main objectives and tasks of educational programmes, the compulsory basic content of education, basic criteria for the assessment of the acquired education, and general procedures according to the level and type of education;

28) **secondary education** – the level of education at which multi-dimensional growth of an individual, purposeful and profound development in an intentionally chosen general and vocational education, or general or vocational education stream, preparation for studies at the highest level of education or professional activity, and involvement in public life takes place;

29) **general education** – the process of cognition of the multi-dimensionality and oneness of a human beings, nature, and society, and the process of development of a humane, free, and responsible individual, and the result thereof.

*[11 May 2000; 5 July 2001; 13 November 2008; 4 March 2010; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 5 May 2016; 20 September 2018 / Amendment regarding deletion of Clause 14 in relation to the implementation of general education programmes in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10 shall come into force on 1 September 2020, in relation to the implementation of general education programmes in grades 2, 5, 8, and 11 shall come into force on 1 September 2021, and in relation to the implementation of general education programmes in grades 3, 6, 9, and 12 shall come into force on 1 September 2022. See Paragraph 74 of Transitional Provisions]*

## **Section 2. Purpose of this Law**

The purpose of this Law is to ensure that every resident of Latvia has the opportunity to develop his or her mental and physical potential in order to become an independent and a fully developed individual, a member of the democratic State and society of Latvia. According to the age and needs of an educatee, he or she shall be ensured an opportunity to:

1) acquire knowledge and skills in the field of humanities, social, natural and technical sciences;

2) acquire knowledge, skills, and experience in relationships in order to participate in the life of the State and society;

3) have moral, aesthetic, intellectual and physical development, by promoting the development of a knowledgeable, skilful, and socialised individual.

### **Section 3. Right to Education**

(1) The following persons have the right to education:

- 1) a citizen of Latvia;
- 2) a non-citizen of Latvia;
- 3) a citizen of the European Union, a citizen of the European Economic Area, or a citizen of the Swiss Confederation;
- 4) a permanent resident of the European Community who has a valid residence permit in the Republic of Latvia;
- 5) a stateless person who has a valid travel document of the stateless person issued in the Republic of Latvia;
- 6) a citizen of another state, other than a citizen of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or the Swiss Confederation (hereinafter – the third-country national) or a stateless person who has a valid residence permit in the Republic of Latvia;
- 7) a refugee or a person who has acquired alternative status;
- 8) a person who has received temporary protection in the Republic of Latvia.

(2) A minor child of an asylum seeker and a minor asylum seeker has the right to basic education and secondary education, as well as the right to continue the commenced education after attaining the age of majority.

(3) A minor third-country national or stateless person who has no legal basis to reside in the Republic of Latvia has the right to acquire basic education during the time period specified for voluntary exit or during the time period for which the expulsion is suspended, as well as during his or her detention.

[4 March 2010]

### **Section 3.1 Prohibition of Differential Treatment**

(1) The persons referred to in Section 3 of this Law have the right to acquire education regardless of the material and social status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, religious and political affiliation, health condition, occupation, and place of residence.

(2) Differential treatment towards a person due to the conditions referred to in Paragraph one of this Section shall be permitted if it is objectively substantiated with a legal purpose the means selected for the achievement of which are proportionate.

(3) An educational institution established by a religious organisation is entitled to base on the person's religious affiliation, readiness, and capability to act in good faith and loyalty in relation to the dogma (doctrine) of the particular religion, as well as a set of moral and behavioural norms, principles, and ideals which form the basis of the conviction of the believers thereof.

(4) It is prohibited to directly or indirectly create unfavourable consequences for a person if he or she maintains his or her rights with a view to prevent differential treatment.

(5) If, in the event of a dispute, a person points to factors which could be the basis for his or her direct or indirect discrimination due to the conditions referred to in Paragraph one of this Section, the implementer of the educational programme has the obligation to prove that the prohibition of differential treatment has not been violated.

(6) If the prohibition of differential treatment or the prohibition to create unfavourable consequences is violated, a person has the right to request elimination of the violation, to receive legal assistance in accordance with the Ombudsman Law, as well as to bring an action to the court. A person has the right to request compensation for losses and remuneration for moral detriment. In the event of a dispute, the amount of remuneration for moral detriment shall be determined by a court at its discretion.

(7) The prohibition of differential treatment in relation to teachers and other persons employed in the education system shall be governed by other laws.

(8) The term "discrimination" used in this Section and types thereof shall conform to the terms used in the Consumer Rights Protection Law.

[4 March 2010]

#### **Section 4. Compulsory Nature of Education**

Preparation of children from the age of five for the acquisition of basic education and the acquisition of basic education, or the continuation of the acquisition of basic education until attaining 18 years of age shall be compulsory.

[5 July 2001; 16 June 2009; 1 December 2009]

#### **Section 5. Levels of Education**

(1) The following levels of education are specified:

- 1) pre-school education;
- 2) basic education;
- 3) secondary education;
- 4) higher education.

(2) An educatee has the right to acquire education at each subsequent level, successively proceeding from one level of education to the next.

#### **Section 6. Types of Education**

The types of education are as follows:

- 1) general education;
- 2) vocational education;
- 3) academic education.

#### **Section 7. Education Target Groups**

Education target groups are aggregates of persons with similar specific needs, interests, and abilities who wish to acquire education or for whom the acquisition of compulsory education has been specified in law. Target groups for primary education consist of:

- 1) children of pre-school age;
- 2) children and young persons of the compulsory education age;
- 3) young persons;
- 4) persons with special needs;
- 5) adults.

#### **Section 8. Forms of Acquisition of Education**

(1) The forms of acquisition of education shall be as follows:

- 1) full-time studies;
- 2) extramural studies;
- 2<sup>1</sup>) distance learning;
- 3) self-education;
- 4) education in the family.

(2) An educational institution is entitled to implement the completion of educational programmes in the form of full-time studies, extramural studies, as well as distance learning. Pre-school education programmes shall be implemented in the form of full-time studies. General basic education and general secondary education programmes shall be implemented in the form of extramural studies and distance learning in conformity with the criteria and procedures for the implementation of general education programmes stipulated by the Cabinet.

(3) An educatee may acquire the contents of an educational programme in the form of self-education. Assessment of an educational programme completed in such a manner can be obtained by taking examinations at the educational institution which implements the relevant programme.

(4) Paragraph three of this Section shall not apply to higher education programmes.

[5 February 2004; 20 September 2018]

## **Section 8.<sup>1</sup> Latvian Qualifications Framework**

(1) The Latvian Qualifications Framework is an eight-level system which encompasses all levels of educations (basic education, secondary education, higher education) and all types of education (general education, vocational education, academic education), as well as the professional qualification acquired outside of the formal education system. The Latvian Qualifications Framework is referenced to the European Qualifications Framework.

(2) Levels of the Latvian Qualifications Framework are characterised by the learning outcomes to be achieved on the relevant level. Each subsequent level includes the knowledge, skills, and competence specified for the previous level.

(3) The levels of the Latvian Qualifications Framework are as follows:

1) the first level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate elementary knowledge and to use it for the performance of elementary practical tasks under supervision of a specialist;

2) the second level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate basic knowledge and to use it for the performance of simple practical tasks in a specific field semi-independently under supervision of a specialist;

3) the third level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate general knowledge and to use it for the performance of different tasks in a constant and stable environment assuming responsibility for the work result;

4) the fourth level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and to independently plan and organise work in the relevant field by assuming responsibility, working individually, in a team or managing the work of other people;

5) the fifth level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate comprehensive and specialised knowledge corresponding to the relevant field; the ability to use analytical approach towards solving of practical problems in the relevant profession in a changing environment; the ability to understand the field of one's activity in a wider social context, to participate in the development of the relevant sector, to evaluate one's own activity and activity of other people;

6) the sixth level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate basic and specialised knowledge in the sector and to use it for the performance of professional, artistic, innovative, or research activity; the ability to use scientific approach for problem-solving, to assume responsibility and initiative; the ability to take decisions and to find creative solutions in changing conditions;

7) the seventh level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate advanced and extensive knowledge in the relevant field of science or professional area; the ability to independently use the theory, methods, and problem-solving skills for the performance of research, artistic, or highly qualified professional activity in changing conditions; the ability to independently formulate and critically analyse complicated scientific and professional problems, to integrate the knowledge of different fields, to contribute to the creation of new knowledge;

8) the eighth level of qualification – the ability to demonstrate extensive research knowledge and skills; the ability to show having good knowledge and understanding of the most topical scientific theories and statements, having good command of the research methodology and modern research methods in the relevant field of science or professional area and at the interface between fields; the ability to independently improve one's scientific qualification and to implement large scientific projects; the ability to solve significant scientific and innovative tasks by making independent, critical analysis, synthesis, and assessment.

[18 June 2015]

## **Section 9. Language in which Education is Acquired**

(1) Education at State, local government educational institutions and educational institutions of State higher education institutions shall be acquired in the official language.

(1<sup>1</sup>) In private educational institutions general education and vocational education at the level of basic education and secondary education shall be acquired in the official language.

(2) Education may be acquired in another language:

1) in educational institutions which are implementing educational programmes according to the bilateral or multilateral international agreements of the Republic of Latvia;



2) in educational institutions which are implementing minority educational programmes on the level of pre-school education and basic education in conformity with the provisions of Section 41 of this Law;

2<sup>1</sup>) in educational institutions in which study subjects of general education programmes are completely or partially implemented in a foreign language in order to ensure the learning of other official languages of the European Union in conformity with the conditions of the relevant State education standard;

3) in educational institutions specified in other laws.

(2<sup>1</sup>) In educational institutions implementing special education programmes for educatees with hearing impairments, as well as in other educational institutions in which learning environment suitable for the acquisition of education in the Latvian sign language is ensured, education may also be acquired in the Latvian sign language .

(3) In order to acquire basic or secondary education, each educatee shall learn the official language and take examinations testing his or her proficiency in the official language to the extent and in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet.

(3<sup>1</sup>) Educational programmes in State-founded higher education institutions shall be implemented in the official language. The use of foreign languages in the implementation of study programmes shall be possible only in the following cases:

1) educational programmes which are being completed by foreign students in Latvia, and educational programmes which are implemented within the framework of co-operation provided for in the programmes and international agreements of the European Union may be implemented in the official languages of the European Union. For foreign students the learning of the official language shall be included in the study course compulsory amount if studies in Latvia are expected to be longer than six months or exceed 20 credit points;

2) not more than one fifth of the amount of credit points of the study programme may be implemented in the official languages of the European Union, taking into account that final and State examinations, as well as development of qualification, bachelor's and master's thesis are not included in this part;

3) educational programmes need to be implemented in a foreign language to achieve the objectives of the educational programme in conformity with the education classification of the Republic of Latvia in the following groups of educational programmes: language and culture studies, language programmes. The licensing commission shall decide on the conformity of the educational programme with the groups of educational programmes.

(4) Professional qualification examinations shall be taken in the official language of the European Union in which the particular educational programme is implemented or in the official language if the particular educational programme is not implemented in any of the official languages of the European Union, except for the cases provided for in other laws.

(5) The papers and thesis necessary for the acquisition of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree shall be developed and defended in the official language of the European Union in which the particular study programme is implemented or in the official language if the particular study programme is not implemented in any of the official languages of the European Union, except for the cases provided for in other laws.

(6) Raising of qualifications and re-qualification that is funded from the State budget or local government budgets shall be carried out in the official language.

*[4 March 2010; 15 March 2012; 18 June 2015; 22 March 2018; 20 September 2018 / Amendments regarding the supplementation of Section with Paragraph 1.<sup>1</sup> and the rewording of Paragraph two, Clause 2 in relation to the implementation of pre-school education programmes and the implementation of basic education programmes in grades 1–7 shall come into force on 1 September 2019, in relation to the implementation of basic education programmes in grade 8 and the implementation of secondary education programmes in grades 10 and 11 shall come into force on 1 September 2020, and in relation to the implementation of basic education programmes in grade 9 and the implementation of secondary education programmes in grade 12 shall come into force on 1 September 2021. See Paragraph 66 of Transitional Provisions]*

## **Section 10. Education and Religion**

(1) The education system shall ensure freedom of conscience. Educatees shall have the option to learn the Christian religious instruction or ethics, or Christian religious instruction and ethics concurrently.

(2) The Law on Religious Organisations shall govern the relations between educational institutions and religious organisations.

### **Section 10.<sup>1</sup> Education and Morality**

(1) The education system shall ensure moral upbringing of an educatee which conforms to the values incorporated in and protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, particularly such values as marriage and family.

(2) An educational institution, except for higher education institutions, shall protect an educatee from such information and methods in the process of education and upbringing which do not conform to the ensuring of moral development of the educatee incorporated in the purpose of this Law.

[18 June 2015]

## **Section 11. Education Documents**

(1) Educatees, upon acquisition of a particular level (except for the level of pre-school education) and type of education, shall be issued the relevant education document: a certificate, a document attesting to the education, or a diploma.

(2) A State-recognised education document shall be issued to an educatee who has acquired education corresponding to an accredited educational programme.

(3) An educational institution may issue a document for partial completion of an educational programme.

### **Section 11.<sup>1</sup> Recognition in Latvia of Education Documents Issued in Foreign Countries**

(1) Expert-examination of education documents issued in foreign countries, as well as documents certifying academic degrees acquired in foreign countries, shall be made based on an application of the holder of the education documents or documents certifying academic degrees, the relevant educational institutions, State authorities, employers, or professional organisations. The Academic Information Centre shall make expert-examination of education documents issued in foreign countries, as well as of documents certifying academic degrees acquired in foreign countries. The services provided within the scope of expert-examination of education documents issued in foreign countries, as well as of documents certifying academic degrees acquired in foreign countries shall be for a fee. The Cabinet shall determine the price list for the services to be provided within the scope of expert-examination.

(1<sup>1</sup>) A copy of the education document issued in a foreign country or the document certifying academic degree acquired in a foreign country which has been certified in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations, a copy of a personal identification document, and translation of such documents into Latvian or in any other official language of the European Union, unless such documents have been drawn up in any of the abovementioned languages, shall be appended to the application referred to in Paragraph of this Section.

(2) During an expert-examination of submitted documents the following is established:

1) which education document issued in Latvia or which academic degree conferred in Latvia is equivalent to the education document issued in a foreign country or to the document certifying academic degree conferred in a foreign country, or which education document issued in Latvia, or which academic degree conferred in Latvia, may be considered as equivalent to such;

2) what additional conditions must be fulfilled so that the education document issued in a foreign country or the document certifying academic degree conferred in a foreign country may be considered as equivalent to an education document issued in Latvia or an academic degree conferred in Latvia if the education document issued or the academic degree conferred in a foreign country does not conform to the requirements of any education document issued in Latvia or to any academic degree conferred in Latvia.

(3) As a result of the expert-examination of documents, the person submitting the application shall be given a notice as to which education document issued in Latvia or academic degree conferred in Latvia the education document issued in a foreign country or the academic degree conferred in a foreign country is equivalent or may be regarded as equivalent.

(4) The decision to recognise an education document shall be taken on the basis of a statement issued by the Academic Information Centre:

1) for the continuation of studies – by the higher education institution in which the holder of the education document wishes to continue the studies. The higher education institution may make an additional expert-examination and set additional requirements;

2) for hiring employees in professions in which the professional activity, or the education required for it is not governed by laws or in other regulatory enactments – by the employer;

3) for the pursuit of professional activities in professions in which the professional activities, or the required education is governed by laws, as well as in other regulatory enactments – by the authorities determined in such laws and other regulatory enactments;

4) for the continuation of education on the level of basic or secondary education – by the Ministry of Education and Science.

(4<sup>1</sup>) The provisions of Paragraphs one, 1.<sup>1</sup>, two, three, and four of this Section shall not be applied if the education document has been issued to the person in a foreign country with which Latvia has concluded an international agreement for the mutual recognition of education documents and it provides different procedures for the recognition of education documents and academic degrees.

(5) The Academic Information Centre is an authority established by the Ministry of Education and Science which carries out expert-examination of education documents issued in foreign countries and documents certifying academic degrees conferred in foreign countries and other functions related to the recognition of education certificates and international information exchange.

[11 May 2000; 17 December 2014; 21 March 2019]

**Section 11.<sup>2</sup>** [Section shall come into force on 1 June 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 June 2020. See Paragraph 83 of Transitional Provisions]

## **Section 12. Fee for the Acquisition of Education**

(1) Fee for the acquisition of pre-school education, basic education, and secondary education at a State or local government institution, as well as at a secondary education institution of State higher education institutions shall be covered from the State budget, local government budgets, or budgets of State higher education institutions in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Cabinet. A private educational institution may determine a fee for the acquisition of education.

(2) In higher education programmes, the State shall cover the fee for the acquisition of education for a specified number of student positions according to the State order specified for the relevant year; for the remaining student positions each higher education institution or college may determine a fee for the acquisition of education.

(2<sup>1</sup>) In its binding regulations, a local government may provide a partial fee as co-financing for the acquisition of education in the vocationally oriented education institutions established by the local government.

(3) A student may receive State credit for studies in higher education programmes. The obtained credit shall be re-paid or extinguished in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Cabinet.

(4) A foreigner or a stateless person shall pay for the completion of higher education programme according to the contract concluded with the relevant educational institution.

(5) For the persons referred to in Section 3, Paragraph one, Clauses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, as well as Paragraphs two and three of this Law, the fee for the acquisition of basic education and secondary education shall be determined and covered according to the same procedures as for a citizen of Latvia and non-citizen of Latvia.

[4 March 2010; 18 June 2015]

### **Section 13. International Co-operation in Education**

(1) Co-operation of the Republic of Latvia with other states and international organisations in the field of education shall be determined by international agreements.

(2) An educational institution is entitled to co-operate with foreign educational institutions and international organisations.

## **Chapter II Organisation of Education**

### **Section 14. Competence of the Cabinet in the Field of Education**

The Cabinet shall:

1) determine the forms for the State-recognised education documents, the criteria and procedures for the issuance of education documents;

1<sup>1</sup>) determine descriptions of knowledge, skills, and competences corresponding to the levels of the Latvian Qualifications Framework;

2) [5 July 2001];

3) determine the procedures by which the State shall finance the basic education and secondary education programmes implemented by private educational institutions;

4) determine the procedures for the receipt, repayment, and extinguishing of a credit in higher education programmes;

5) determine the procedures for the registration of children who have attained the compulsory school age;

6) approve the constitution of the National Defence Academy of Latvia and higher education institutions founded by private individuals;

7) found, reorganise, and liquidate State educational institutions and State education support institutions upon a proposal of the Minister for Education and Science or other Ministers;

7<sup>1</sup>) approve the by-laws of State educational institutions (except for State higher education institutions – derived public persons);

8) determine the procedures for the registration and accreditation of educational institutions and other authorities specified in this Law, including extraordinary accreditation and cancellation of accreditation;

9) [16 June 2009];

10) govern the rules and procedures for the accreditation of higher education institutions;

11) determine the procedures for the licensing and accreditation of educational programmes, including extraordinary accreditation and cancellation of accreditation;

12) confirm the list of pedagogical professions and positions;

12<sup>1</sup>) determine the procedures and criteria for the assessment of the professional activity of the heads of educational institutions (except for higher education institutions and colleges), including for extraordinary assessment and cancellation of the assessment;

12<sup>2</sup>) determine the procedures and evaluation conditions for the selection of candidates for the positions of the heads of State and local government educational institutions (except for higher education institutions and colleges) and heads of local government educational boards;

13) confirm, according to pedagogical professions, the requirements for the required education and professional qualifications of teachers;

13<sup>1</sup>) determine the procedures by which a certificate for the commencement of a private practice of a teacher shall be issued, its term of validity shall be extended, or it shall be cancelled;

14) [5 July 2001];

15) determine the procedures by which the State and local governments shall finance the purchase of teaching aids for educational institutions;

15<sup>1</sup>) determine the procedures for the evaluation and approval of the conformity of the educational literature with the State basic education and general secondary education standard;

16) determine the procedures for the payment of work remuneration to teachers and its amount, including the lowest monthly salary rate for a teacher;

17) determine the procedures for the financing in special education institutions and in special education classes and groups of general education institutions;

18) develop and submit for approval to the *Saeima* the education development guidelines for the subsequent seven years as a unified State policy and strategy in education;

18<sup>1</sup>) determine the guidelines for the State pre-school education which include model educational programmes corresponding to the requirements of such guidelines;

19) determine State standards in education which include model educational programmes corresponding to the requirements of such standards, except for model vocational education programmes and model academic education programmes;

20) determine the minimum costs for the implementation of educational programmes per one educatee;

20<sup>1</sup>) determine the procedures by which an educational institution (except for higher education institutions and colleges) shall ensure library and information services;

21) determine the procedures by which prophylactic health care and access to emergency medical assistance, as well as the safety of educatees in educational institutions and the events organised by such institutions shall be ensured;

22) determine the amount of workload for teachers;

23) determine the procedures for receiving scholarships and the minimum amount of scholarships for the students of higher education programmes who have been enrolled according to competitive procedures according to the number of State financed places, and for students of vocational education programmes who have been enrolled according to the number of State or local government financed places;

24) determine the procedures for financing interest-related education programmes;

24<sup>1</sup>) [*Clause shall come into force on 1 September 2021 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2021. See Paragraph 78 of Transitional Provisions*];

25) govern the organisation of children's camps and activity regulations;

26) determine the procedures by which the State shall finance vocationally oriented education programmes;

27) determine the authority which keep the registers of teachers and educational programmes, as well as the procedures by which they are kept and maintained;

28) determine the authority which shall licence educational programmes;

29) determine the authority which shall carry out accreditation of educational programmes and educational institutions;

30) determine the content of the State Education Information System and the procedures for its maintenance and updating;

31) determine the procedures by which the State shall finance adult non-formal education programmes, further education programmes, and professional competence improvement, as well as the criteria for the receipt of the relevant financing;

32) determine the procedures for the improvement of the professional competence of teachers;

33) determine the procedures by which State examinations shall take place in accredited educational programmes (except for higher education programmes);

34) determine the support measures for employers in additional educating of employees, including the criteria for the receipt of such support and the procedures for the implementation of support measures;

35) determine the procedures by which an educational institution shall inform parents (persons who exercise custody) of educatees, local government or State institutions, if an educatee fails to attend educational institution without a justifying reason;

36) determine the methodology according to which a local government shall determine the average costs necessary per educatee in a pre-school education programme (from the age of one and a half years up to the commencement of acquisition of basic education) at local government educational institutions, and the procedures by which a local government shall, according to the average costs necessary per educatee specified thereby in the educational institutions of the relevant local government, cover the costs of a pre-school education programme for a private educational institution;

37) determine the directions for the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of teachers, the description of the levels of the quality of the professional activity of teachers, and the procedures by which the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of teachers shall be organised;

38) determine guidelines for the upbringing of educatees, also national and moral upbringing, in educational institutions, except for higher education institutions, including govern the provisions for the use of the national symbols of Latvia – national flag, national anthem, and the State coat of arms – at an educational institution and the events organised thereby regardless of the legal status of the educational institution, taking into account the requirements of laws and regulations. The educational institution may use the large State coat of arms within the scope of national upbringing. The Cabinet shall determine the events to be organised for celebrating public holidays at educational institutions, except for higher education institutions;

39) determine the procedures by which the conformity of information, including teaching aids and materials, as well as study and upbringing methods with ensuring of the moral development of an educatee included in the purpose of this Law shall be evaluated, as well as the criteria for such evaluation;

40) determine the procedures by which State social support shall be granted to those teachers involved in implementation of general basic education programmes and general secondary education programmes who lose the job of a teacher in case of reorganisation or liquidation of a general education institution of a local government, as well as determine the authority which shall administer the disbursement of State social support and its discontinuation;

41) determine the quality criteria, the minimum admissible number of educatees, and the criteria for the determination of the maximum admissible number of educatees in a grade or group of grades at the level of secondary education in general education institutions of local governments, State higher education institutions, and in private general education institutions. The founder of the educational institution shall take into account the abovementioned criteria upon determining the maximum admissible number of educatees in a grade or group of grades;

42) determine the criteria and procedures by which the State, including taking into account the minimum acceptable number of educatees at the level of secondary education, shall participate in the financing of the work remuneration for teachers who are involved in the implementation of general education programmes in general education institutions of local governments, State higher education institutions, and private general education institutions, if an educational institution does not meet the quality criteria specified by the Cabinet;

43) determine the procedures by which an educational institution shall implement general basic and general secondary education programmes in the form of extramural studies and distance learning;

44) determine the procedures for the calculation, granting, and use of the resources intended in the State budget for the catering of such educatees who are acquiring basic education programmes in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 in full-time studies, and the amount of the State budget funds for one educatee per day.

*[11 May 2000; 5 July 2001; 20 September 2001; 16 June 2009; 1 December 2009; 4 March 2010; 15 March 2012; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 3 December 2015; 5 May 2016; 23 November 2016; 27 July 2017; 22 November 2017; 20 September 2018; 14 November 2019 / Clause 40 shall be in force until 31 December 2020. Amendment regarding the supplementation of Clause 24 with the words “and interest-related education institutions of national significance”, as well as Clause 24.<sup>1</sup> shall come into force on 1 September 2021 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2021. See Paragraphs 62 and 78 of Transitional Provisions]*

## **Section 15. Competence of the Ministry of Education and Science in the Field of Education**

The Ministry of Education and Science shall:

- 1) implement a unified State policy and development strategy in education;
- 2) develop draft policy planning documents and draft laws and regulations in the field of education;
- 2<sup>1</sup>) be responsible for the implementation of the purpose specified in the Education Law;
- 3) ensure the maintenance and updating of the State Education Information System and the State Examination Information System;
- 4) [16 June 2009];
- 5) [16 June 2009];
- 6) organise educational and professional skill improvement work for teachers, coordinate the research and methodology work;

7) develop the guidelines for the State pre-school education, State education standards, as well as model educational programmes corresponding to the requirements of the guidelines for the State pre-school education or State education standards;

8) develop proposals and, according to the specified procedures, submit a request for the allocation of the State budget funds to education, science, sports, development of the official language, and upbringing of the youth in accordance with the purpose of this Law;

9) control lawful use of the State budget funds provided for education at the educational institutions subordinate thereto;

10) coordinate the co-operation in education between the State educational institutions, foreign countries and international organisations;

11) develop model programmes for study subjects or courses (except for higher education programmes) according to the requirements of the State education standards;

12) develop model by-laws for educational institutions and education support institutions;

13) organise State order for the preparation and publication of teaching aids corresponding to basic education programmes;

14) coordinate the procedures for the acquisition of education and improvement of professional competence for teachers;

15) [16 June 2009];

16) [4 March 2010];

17) organise the development of electronic educational resources and teaching aids conforming to the education standards;

18) monitor the results of the learning process of State-funded educational institutions, develop and implement measures for the improvement of the quality of the learning process;

19) [4 March 2010];

20) [11 May 2000];

21) [15 March 2012];

22) [18 June 2015];

23) submit proposals to the Cabinet regarding the foundation, reorganisation, and liquidation of State educational institutions and education support institutions, agreeing thereupon with the relevant local governments;

24) [18 June 2015 / See Paragraph 43 of Transitional Provisions];

25) hire and dismiss heads of educational institutions (except for higher education institutions) subordinate to the Ministry of Education and Science;

26) propose the dismissal from work of the heads of local government educational institutions and heads of secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions. The hiring and dismissal from work of the heads of local government educational institutions shall be agreed upon with the local government;

27) [18 June 2015].

[11 May 2000; 5 July 2001; 16 June 2009; 1 December 2009; 4 March 2010; 15 March 2012; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 21 March 2019]

## **Section 16. Competence of other Sectoral Ministries in Education**

(1) Other sectoral ministries shall:

1) submit the Cabinet proposals for the foundation, reorganisation, or liquidation of State educational institutions, agreeing thereupon with the Ministry of Education and Science;

2) develop the study content in professional subjects;

3) [11 May 2000];

4) ensure the operation of the educational institutions subordinate thereto, as well as organise and finance publication and purchase of teaching aids corresponding to the standards for professional subjects;

5) control the financial and economic activities of the educational institutions subordinate thereto;

6) [4 March 2010];

7) [18 June 2015 / See Paragraph 43 of Transitional Provisions].

(2) The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development shall develop the methodology according to which a local government shall determine the average costs necessary

per one educatee in the pre-school education programme (from the age of 18 months until commencing the acquisition of basic education) at local government educational institutions, and the procedures by which a local government shall, according to the average costs necessary per educatee specified thereby in the educational institutions of the relevant local government, cover the costs of a pre-school education programme for a private educational institution.

[11 May 2000; 4 March 2010; 18 June 2015; 3 December 2015; 20 September 2018]

## **Section 17. Competence of Local Governments in Education**

(1) Each local government has an obligation to ensure that the children whose declared place of residence is in the administrative territory of the local government have the opportunity to acquire pre-school education and basic education at the educational institution closest to the place of residence of the child or at the closest educational institution which is implementing an educational programme in the official language, to ensure that young persons have the opportunity to acquire secondary education, as well as to ensure the opportunity to implement interest-related education and to support extracurricular activities, also children's camps.

(2) In order to ensure that a child whose place of residence is declared in the administrative territory of the local government has the opportunity to attend an educational institution of his or her free choice, but who is attending an educational institution which is located in the administrative territory of another local government, the local government has an obligation to enter into a contract in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Cabinet for the participation in the financing of the maintenance expenditures of an educational institution subordinate to the relevant local government.

(2<sup>1</sup>) If a local government does not ensure a place in a pre-school education programme implemented by the local government educational institution to a child who has attained the age of 18 months and whose place of residence is declared in the administrative territory of the local government (from the age of 18 months until commencing the acquisition of basic education) and the child is acquiring the pre-school education programme in a private educational institution, the local government shall cover the costs for such private service provider in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Cabinet. Costs shall be covered in the amount that corresponds to the average costs necessary for one educatee in the pre-school education programme in educational institutions of the respective local government. If the educatee acquires a pre-school education programme implemented in educational institutions selected by the local government in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Public Procurement Law, the costs shall be covered in the amount which is determined as a result of the public procurement.

(2<sup>2</sup>) The local government shall, according to the methodology stipulated by the Cabinet, determine the average costs necessary for one educatee in the pre-school education programme (from the age of 18 months until commencing the acquisition of basic education) at educational institutions of the respective local government. The local government shall publish the abovementioned average costs and the procedures for calculating them on its website.

(2<sup>3</sup>) Where a local government covers the costs of the pre-school education programme in the cases specified in Paragraph 2.<sup>1</sup> of this Section, it shall continue to cover such costs for a private educational institution if an offer has been made to the educatee in writing of a place at the local government educational institution in which he or she has been registered for enrolment, but the lawful representative of such educatee has refused the offered position, and the educatee continues completion of the pre-school education programme in the private educational institution.

(2<sup>4</sup>) In its binding regulations, a local government shall determine the procedures by which it shall ensure the covering of the costs specified in Paragraphs 2.<sup>1</sup> and 2.<sup>3</sup> of this Section, as well as the conditions for the determination of a higher amount of the support according to the budgetary possibilities of the local government.

(3) A city local government and a municipality local government shall:

1) by agreeing thereupon with the Ministry of Education and Science, found, reorganise, and liquidate general education institutions, including special education institutions and grades, as well as pre-school educational groups for children with special needs and interest-related educational institutions, but, by agreeing thereupon with the relevant sectoral ministry and the Ministry of Education and Science, found, reorganise, and liquidate vocational education institutions;



2) hire and dismiss heads of general education institutions, including special education institutions, vocational education institutions, interest-related education institutions, vocationally oriented education institutions in sports subordinate thereto, agreeing thereupon with the Ministry of Education and Science, but the heads of vocationally oriented education institutions in arts or culture – agreeing thereupon with the relevant sectoral ministry;

3) determine the procedures by which the educational institutions subordinate thereto shall be financed from the budget;

4) participate in the financing of State and other local government educational institutions on the basis of mutual agreements;

5) may participate in the financing of private educational institutions on the basis of mutual agreements;

6) allocate local government budget resources to educational institutions and control their use;

7) maintain the educational institutions subordinate thereto, except for the special education institutions implementing special education programmes at the level of basic education or secondary education and ensure services of a boarding school, as well as the special education institutions – development and rehabilitation centres, taking into consideration that the financial provision of such institutions may not be less than that specified by the Cabinet, and control the use of such financial resources;

8) provide support to the educational institutions subordinate thereto for making the necessary improvements established during the accreditation of these educational institutions;

9) ensure the transfer of the State budget resources allocated for salaries of teachers of the educational institutions and education support institutions subordinate thereto to the accounts of the educational institutions;

10) ensure the work remuneration for the economic, technical, and medical employees of educational institutions subordinate thereto, except for the work remuneration of employees of the special education institutions implementing special education programmes at the level of basic education or secondary education and ensure services of a boarding school, as well as the special education institutions – development and rehabilitation centres;

11) ensure preventive health care and access to emergency medical assistance for educatees of the educational institutions subordinate thereto in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet, as well as determine such educatees for whom the cost of meals shall be covered by the local government;

12) ensure the acquisition of education for educatees with special needs (according to the health condition which affects the type of acquisition of education) in special education institutions, pre-school educational groups for children with special needs, special education classes in accordance with the procedures and in the amounts specified by the Cabinet;

13) ensure catering in special education institutions, pre-school educational groups for children with special needs, special education classes subordinate thereto in accordance with the procedures and in the amounts specified by the Cabinet;

14) ensure transport for educatees to commute to the educational institution and back to their place of residence if the public transport cannot be used;

15) ensure career education for children and young persons;

16) ensure interest-related education for children and young persons, issue licences for the implementation of interest-related education programmes;

17) ensure protection of the rights of children in the field of education;

18) provide consultative assistance to families in regard to the upbringing of children;

19) ensure the operation of the local government pedagogical-medical commission and the accessibility thereof for children with special needs;

20) register children who have attained the age of compulsory schooling in accordance with procedures specified by the Cabinet;

21) determine the amount of benefits and material support of another kind and the procedures for granting thereof to educatees in the educational institutions subordinate thereto;

22) implement policy in adult education and ensure the distribution of the financing granted and supervision over the use of financial resources;

23) finance from its budget the purchase of teaching aids corresponding to the guidelines for the State pre-school education, State basic education, general secondary education,

vocational secondary education and industrial education standards – additional literature, visual aids, didactic games, digital teaching aids and resources, handouts, study technical aids, educational materials, devices and equipment – for educational institutions subordinate thereto;

23<sup>1</sup>) promote the possibility for educational institutions to use the unified library information system;

24) organise professional skill improvement of teachers, coordinate and ensure methodological work;

25) determine the number of positions in higher education institutions and colleges to be funded from the local government budget resources;

26) ensure the organisation of State examinations, including centralised examinations, in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet;

27) support participation of educatees in olympiads of study subjects, competitions, shows, projects, and sports competitions;

28) fulfil the functions of local governments in the field of education specified in other laws and regulations.

(4) [13 November 2008]

(5) [13 November 2008]

[11 May 2000; 5 July 2001; 20 September 2001; 5 February 2004; 13 November 2008; 4 March 2010; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 3 December 2015; 22 November 2017 / Amendments to Clauses 1, 2, 12, and 13 of Paragraph three in relation to the deletion of the words “boarding school” shall come into force on 1 August 2019. See Paragraph 60 of Transitional Provisions]

## **Section 18. Ensuring Functions of City and Municipality Local Governments in the Field of Education**

(1) A local government shall create at least one position of education specialist or education administration institution in order to fulfil its functions in the field of education. An education specialist and head of an education administration institution must have academic education or a second level professional higher education and work experience of at least three years in the field of education or in education administration work.

(2) Work remuneration of a local government education specialist and local government education administration institution shall be financed from the budget of the relevant local government.

(3) Municipality local governments may group together for the fulfilment of one or several functions in the field of education, mutually agreeing upon the financing procedures.

[13 November 2008 / The new wording of Section shall come into force on 1 July 2009. See Transitional Provisions]

## **Section 19. Education Support Institution**

(1) An education support institution is an institution founded by the State, local governments, as well as other legal or natural persons the purpose of which is to provide methodological, scientific, informative and other type of intellectual support to educatees, teachers, parents of educatees, and educational institutions.

(2) Education support may also be provided by such legal persons in the by-laws (articles of association) of which provision of education support is included as one of the types of activity.

**Section 19.<sup>1</sup>** [Section shall come into force on 1 September 2021 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2021. See Paragraph 78 of Transitional Provisions]

## **Section 20. State Education Quality Service**

(1) Conformity with this Law, the General Education Law, the Vocational Education Law, the Law on Higher Education Institutions, and other laws and regulations related to education shall be controlled by the State Education Quality Service.

(2) The State Education Quality Service is an institution subordinate the Ministry of Education and Science. Its operations are governed by the by-laws approved by the Cabinet.

(3) The State Education Quality Service shall:

1) control the conformity of the education process with this Law, other laws and regulatory enactments governing education;

2) analyse the activities of educational institutions, develop proposals for amendments to laws and regulations and for improving the work of educational institutions;

3) in cases when a violation of laws or other regulatory enactments has been established, make proposal to the employer to impose disciplinary sanctions for the head of an educational institution or the teacher, or terminate the employment contract concluded with him or her;

4) impose administrative sanctions in accordance with the procedures and in the cases laid down in law;

5) in cases when the health or life of the educatees is in danger, as well as for other violations of the law, temporarily, while the founder of the educational institution has not examined the relevant matter and taken a decision, suspend the orders of officials and suspend officials from the fulfilment of duties. Appeal of the decision of the State Education Quality Service to suspend an official or teacher from the fulfilment of duties shall not suspend its execution;

6) issue certificates for the commencement of a private practice of a teacher, as well as extend their term of validity or cancel them in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Cabinet.

(4) The head of the State Education Quality Service and officials of the Service authorised thereby have the right to:

1) without prior notification, upon presenting a service identification document, visit the premises of any educational institution and other premises which are related to the course of the education process;

2) request written or oral explanations from any legal or natural person regarding issues within the competence of the Service;

3) request and receive from legal and natural persons information necessary for the fulfilment of service duties and copies of documents regarding issues within the competence of the Service;

4) perform an inspection, where necessary, by inviting employees of law enforcement institutions or other specialists, to photograph, make audio recordings and video recordings within the competence of the Service;

5) draw up the inspection statement and order to eliminate the violations of the laws and regulations related to education found during the inspection;

6) draw up a report on an administrative violation.

[5 February 2004; 16 June 2009; 5 May 2016; 23 November 2016]

## **Section 21. Public Participation in Education**

(1) The public shall participate in the organisation and development of education by popularising all forms of education, educating and promoting improvement in the quality of education, creating educational programmes, protecting the rights and interests of educatees and teachers during the process of acquisition of education and work, developing educational institutions and education support institutions, associations and foundations.

(2) State and local government education administration institutions shall provide the information, consultations, and methodological assistance necessary for the fulfilment of the tasks referred to in Paragraph one of this Section.

(3) In order to ensure the education administration and education support function specified thereto, the Ministry of Education and Science may delegate the fulfilment of the relevant tasks (including organisation of the accreditation of higher education programmes and higher education institutions and colleges) to a private individual or a public person by entering into a delegation contract.

(4) The delegation contracts referred to in Paragraph three of this Section may include the right to issue administrative deeds.

[4 March 2010; 18 June 2015]

### **Chapter III Educational Institutions**

#### **Section 22. Legal Basis for the Activity of Educational Institutions**

(1) State, local government educational institutions, secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions, and private educational institutions, except for commercial companies and higher education institutions, shall act on the basis of this Law, other laws and regulatory enactments, as well as the by-laws of the relevant institution which are approved by the founder of the institution.

(2) The State, local government and private commercial companies, except for higher education institutions, shall carry out educational activity on the basis of this Law, other laws and regulatory enactments, as well as by-laws regarding educational activity approved by their founders.

(3) Higher education institutions shall act on the basis of this Law, the Law on Higher Education Institutions and other laws and regulations, as well as the constitution of the relevant higher education institution. The constitutions of higher education institutions shall be approved in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

(4) Colleges shall act on the basis of this Law, the Law on Higher Education Institutions and other laws and regulations, as well as the by-laws of the relevant college. The by-laws of colleges shall be issued in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

*[4 March 2010; 18 June 2015]*

#### **Section 23. Procedures for the Foundation, Reorganisation, and Liquidation of Educational Institutions**

(1) State educational institutions shall be founded, reorganised, and liquidated by the Cabinet upon proposal by the Minister for Education and Science or the Minister for another sector.

(2) Local government educational institutions shall be founded, reorganised, and liquidated by local governments, agreeing thereupon with the Ministry of Education and Science or the relevant sectoral ministry and the Ministry of Education and Science.

(2<sup>1</sup>) Secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions shall be founded, reorganised, and liquidated by State higher education institutions (except for the National Defence Academy of Latvia), agreeing thereupon with the Ministry of Education and Science.

(3) Private educational institutions shall be founded, reorganised, and liquidated by legal and natural persons. The State and local governments may participate in the foundation of private commercial companies.

(4) A foreign legal person may found, reorganise, and liquidate an educational institution in accordance with this Law and other laws, as well as international agreements.

(5) The relevant authorities and persons shall be informed of the liquidation or reorganisation of an educational institution not later than six months in advance. If such deadline cannot be met due to objective reasons, the relevant authorities and persons shall be informed of the liquidation or reorganisation of the educational institution not later than three months in advance.

*[20 September 2001; 4 March 2010; 18 June 2015; 20 September 2018]*

#### **Section 24. Register of Educational Institutions and the Documents Necessary for Registration**

(1) Each educational institution shall, within a month from the day of founding the institution, submit an application for the registration of the educational institution in the Register of Educational Institutions. The Register of Educational Institutions is a component of the State Education Information System, and it shall be maintained by the authority stipulated by the Cabinet. Higher education institutions shall be registered in the Register of Educational Institutions in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

(2) The following information shall be included in the Register of Educational Institutions:

- 1) the name of the educational institution, its legal address, the address of the place where the educational programme is implemented;
- 2) the founder of the educational institution, the legal status of the educational institution;
- 3) the date when the decision to found the educational institution or to commence the educational activity was taken, the level and type of education in which the educational programme is being implemented;
- 4) the head of the educational institution;
- 5) the area and technical equipment of the premises of the educational institution, their conformity with the construction, safety, and hygiene requirements;
- 6) the sources of and procedures for the financing of the educational institution;
- 7) the registration date of the educational institution;
- 8) information regarding the reorganisation, termination of operation (liquidation), and exclusion of the educational institution from the Register of Educational Institutions;
- 9) the date of approval of the regulatory enactment (by-laws) governing the operation of the educational institution;
- 10) other information if such information is directly provided for by the Law.

(3) The founder of the institution shall ensure the registration of the educational institution. The application for the registration of the educational institution shall be submitted by a person authorised by the founder. (3) The by-laws for the operation of the educational institution which have been approved by the founder of the educational institution and the documents certifying the information to be indicated in the Register of Educational Institutions must be appended to the application for the registration of the educational institution. The documents certifying the conformity of the resources of the college (for example, financial resources, material technical and information base, academic personnel) with the criteria specified by the Cabinet for the commencement of the operation of the college must be additionally appended to the application for the registration of a college.

(4) Within a month from the date of submission of the documents referred to in Paragraph three of this Section, the educational institution shall be entered in the Register of Educational Institutions.

(5) The decision to reorganise or liquidate an educational institution shall be notified to the Register of Educational Institution within 10 days.

(6) The information included in the Register of Educational Institutions is available to everyone free of charge.

[5 May 2016; 20 September 2018]

## **Section 25. Commencement of the Activity of an Educational Institution**

(1) An educational institution is entitled to commence the implementation of educational programmes in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations from the day when it has been registered in the Register of Educational Institutions. The day of the notification of an administrative deed shall also be considered as the day when the educational institution was registered.

(2) An educational institution implementing an educational programme to be licensed as specified in this Law is entitled to enrol educatees only after licensing of the educational programme. This provision shall not apply to the educational institutions referred to in Section 47, Paragraph two of this Law.

[11 May 2000; 4 March 2010; 20 September 2018]

## **Section 26. Name of an Educational Institution**

(1) The name of an educational institution and of a unit of an educational institution must conform to the names of levels and types of education specified in this Law.

(2) The name of an educational institution must clearly and definitely differ from other names of educational institutions already registered in the Register of Educational Institutions.

(3) The name of an educational institution shall be in the official language.

(4) An educational institution is entitled, according to the historical traditions thereof and with the permission of the Minister for Education and Science, to use another name which is not in contradiction with this Law and other laws and regulations.

[4 March 2010; 18 June 2015]

### **Section 27. Accreditation of Educational Institutions**

(1) Educational institutions, except for those which implement only interest-related education programmes, shall be accredited in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet. Educational institutions implementing basic and secondary level education programmes shall be accredited for six years in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet. Accreditation has to be done within five years from the day when the educational institution commences its activities.

(2) If significant violations of laws and regulations are established in the operation of an educational institution, the authority which decides on the accreditation of the educational institution may, upon a proposal of the founder of the educational institution or the Ministry of Education and Science, take the decision on the extraordinary accreditation of the educational institution.

(3) Paragraph two of this Section shall not apply to higher education institutions and colleges.

[4 March 2010; 23 November 2016]

### **Section 28. Independence of Educational Institutions**

Educational institutions shall have independence in the development and implementation of educational programmes, selection of employees, financial, economic and other activities in accordance with this Law, other laws and regulatory enactments, and the by-laws or constitution of the educational institution.

[5 February 2004]

### **Section 29. Competence of the Founder of an Educational Institution**

The founder of an educational institution shall provide the financial and material resources necessary for continuous operation of the educational institution in conformity with the Cabinet regulations regarding the financial and material support of educational institutions.

[5 February 2004]

### **Section 30. Head of an Educational Institution**

(1) The head of an educational institution shall be responsible for the operation of the educational institution and results thereof, for conformity with this Law and other regulatory enactments governing the operation of educational institutions, as well as for the rational use of intellectual, financial and material resources.

(2) The head of the educational institution shall decide independently, within the scope of his or her authority, on the use of the intellectual, financial and material resources of the educational institution, and shall specify remuneration for the employees of the educational institution which shall not be lower than the work remuneration specified by the Cabinet.

(3) The head of the educational institution has an obligation to ensure the creation and operation of a council of the educational institution. The head of the educational institution shall, once an academic year, provide a report to the council on education process and its results, as well as on the conditions of organising work in the educational institution. These provisions shall not apply to a higher education institution.

(3<sup>1</sup>) The head of the educational institution has an obligation to ensure access for the educational institution to the library, information and career development support services.

(3<sup>2</sup>) The head of the educational institution has an obligation to organise the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of teachers.

(3<sup>3</sup>) The head of the educational institution shall, in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet, ascertain whether the person is subject to the restrictions specified in Section 50, Paragraph one of this Law to work as a teacher.

(4) A person who has impeccable reputation, who is loyal to the Republic of Latvia and its Constitution, inter alia, does not violate the prohibition of discrimination and differential treatment towards a person, who has the relevant education and the necessary professional qualification is entitled to work as the head of the educational institution. A person who has a higher pedagogical education or a higher and pedagogical education, as well as a person who has a higher education and is acquiring a pedagogical education is entitled to work as the head of a general basic or general secondary education institution.

(4<sup>1</sup>) The professional activity of the heads of educational institutions (except for higher education institutions and colleges) shall be assessed in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet at least once in six years. The suitability of the head of the educational institution for the position to be held shall be decided based on the assessment results. If the professional activity of the head of the educational institution has been assessed as unsatisfactory, the person is prohibited from holding the position of the head of the educational institution. The assessment results may be taken into account upon determining bonuses and gratuities for the head of the educational institution.

(5) The designations of heads of educational institutions shall be as follows:

- 1) head – at pre-school education institutions;
- 2) director – at basic and secondary education institutions, colleges, vocationally oriented education institutions, interest-related education institutions;
- 3) rector – at higher education institutions.

(6) If the State Education Quality Service or the employer finds non-conformity of the head of the educational institution or his or her actions with the requirements laid down in Paragraph four of this Section or Section 51, Paragraph one, Clause 2.<sup>1</sup> of this Law, the person is prohibited from holding the position of the head of the educational institution.

*[10 May 2001; 5 July 2001; 20 September 2001; 5 February 2004; 16 June 2009; 4 March 2010; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 23 November 2016; 27 July 2017; 22 March 2018; 30 May 2019]*

### **Section 31. Council of an Educational Institution**

(1) The council of an educational institution is a collegial institution of a pre-school, basic education, secondary education or vocationally oriented education institution in which the following persons are engaged:

- 1) representatives delegated by educatees, except for educatees in pre-school education programmes;
- 2) representatives delegated by parents of educatees (persons who exercise custody);
- 3) representatives delegated by teachers and other employees of the educational institution.

(2) Representatives of parents (persons who exercise custody) shall be in majority in the council of an educational institution. Representatives of parents (persons who exercise custody) shall be elected by a meeting of parents of the educational institution by majority of votes. An employee of the educational institution may not be delegated in the council as a representative of parents (persons who exercise custody). The head of the council of the educational institution shall be elected from amongst parents (persons who exercise custody). The head of the educational institution and a representative of the founder of the educational institution may be included in the composition of the council.

(2<sup>1</sup>) The first sentence of Paragraph two of this Section shall not be applied in the operation of the council of an educational institution and social correction education institution subordinate to the Ministry of Justice, and they have the right not to apply Paragraph one, Clause 2 and the fourth sentence of Paragraph two of this Section.

(3) The council of an educational institution:

- 1) shall provide proposals for the development of the educational institution;
- 2) shall participate in the discussion of the educational process and its results and provide proposals for improving the quality of education in the educational institution;
- 3) shall provide proposals in issues related to the rights and obligations of educatees and employees of the educational institution;
- 4) shall provide proposals to the head of the educational institution for the work organisation of the institution, budget allocation, and implementation of educational programmes;

5) is entitled to decide on which individual learning accessories referred to in Section 1, Clause 12.<sup>5</sup>, Sub-clause “k” of this Law shall be ensured by parents of educatees (persons who exercise custody);

5<sup>1</sup>) shall decide on the conformity of the methods and information to be used in the learning and upbringing process, including teaching aids and materials, with the ensuring of moral development of an educatee included in the purpose of this Law, as well as the the guidelines of moral upbringing;

6) shall address the organisational issues within its competence, including issues related to events organised by the educational institution;

7) shall facilitate co-operation between the educational institution and society;

8) shall inform of its activities and taken decisions in accordance with the procedures laid down in the regulatory enactment governing the work of the council of the educational institution;

9) is entitled to create interest groups and institutions [of parents (persons who exercise custody), educatees], involving educatees and their parents (persons who exercise custody) of the respective educational institution therein;

10) shall fulfil other obligations specified in the regulatory enactment governing the work of the council of the educational institution and in other laws and regulations.

(4) The council of the educational institution shall operate in accordance with the regulatory enactment governing operation of the council of the educational institution which is issued by the council itself, coordinating it with the head of the educational institution.

[9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 20 September 2018]

## **Chapter IV**

### **Guidelines for State Pre-school Education, State Education Standards and Educational Programmes**

[1 December 2009]

#### **Section 32. State Education Standard**

(1) The State education standard is a document which specifies the following according to the level and type of education and the target group:

1) the strategic objectives and the principal tasks of educational programmes;

2) the compulsory content of education;

3) the basic principles and procedures for the assessment of the education acquired by an educatee.

(2) Conformity with the State education standard is compulsory for each legal and natural person who develops and implements the relevant educational programme.

(3) The State education standard shall include model educational programmes corresponding to the requirements of the respective education standard, except for model vocational education programmes and model academic education programmes.

[15 March 2012; 9 July 2013]

#### **Section 33. Educational Programmes**

(1) An educational programme is a document governing educational activities of an educational institution or another authority specified in this Law by which, according to the level and type of education, the target group, and the State education standard or the guidelines for the State pre-school education, the following shall be determined:

1) the objectives, tasks, and planned results of the educational programme;

2) the requirements for the previous education of educatees (except for pre-school education programmes);

3) the education content as a single unit of the contents of subjects or courses (except for pre-school education programmes);

4) the plan for the implementation of the educational programme;

5) evaluation of the personnel, funds, and material resources necessary for the implementation of the educational programme in accordance with the Cabinet regulations regarding the minimum costs for the implementation of educational programmes per one educatee.



(2) Educational programmes shall be developed by an educational institution according to the guidelines for the State pre-school education or the State education standards and norms, agreeing thereupon with the founder of the institution.

(3) An educational programme shall be accredited in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet within two years from the day of commencement of its implementation, and not less than once in six years. If significant violations of laws and regulations are established in the implementation of the educational programme, the authority which decides on the accreditation of the educational programme may, on the basis of a proposal of the founder of the educational institution or the Ministry of Education and Science, take the decision on extraordinary accreditation of the educational programme.

(4) Paragraph three of this Section shall not apply to higher education institutions and colleges.

[11 May 2000; 5 July 2001; 5 February 2004; 1 December 2009; 9 July 2013; 23 November 2016]

### **Section 34. Subject or Course Programmes**

(1) Programmes for subjects or courses may be developed or selected by the teachers implementing such programmes according to the educational programme.

(2) The head of the educational institution shall approve a programme for subjects or courses.

### **Section 35. Assessment of the Acquired Education**

(1) The basic principles for the assessment of the acquired education shall be specified in the guidelines for the State pre-school education, the basic criteria and procedures shall be specified in the State education standards.

(2) Acquisition of education under accredited educational programmes at an educational institution shall end with State examinations.

(3) The procedures for the acquisition of professional qualification shall be determined by the Vocational Education Law and the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

(4) Assessment of the acquired academic education shall take place in accordance with the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

[1 December 2009; 4 March 2010]

### **Section 35.<sup>1</sup> State Examination Information System**

(1) The State Examination Information System is a State information system in which information regarding State examinations in general education programmes, including information regarding examinations of an international testing authority in a foreign language, information regarding State examinations in vocational education programmes, except for the first and second level vocational higher education programmes, as well as information regarding examinations of the proficiency in the official language is entered.

(2) Information regarding educational institutions in which State examinations are taken, regarding persons who must take State examinations, and regarding persons who have ensured the examination process, regarding tasks and assessments of State examinations, as well as information regarding documents certifying the results of State examinations shall be entered in the State Examination Information System.

(3) If an examination of an international testing institution included in the list of the Cabinet has been passed in a foreign language and it replaces the State examination in a foreign language in a general secondary education programme or vocational secondary education programme, information regarding the authority in which the examination of an international testing institution was taken and regarding the results of such examination shall be entered in the State Examination Information System.

(4) The information referred to in Paragraph two of this Section shall be entered in the State Examination Information System regarding examinations of the proficiency in the official language.

(5) The data of the State Examination Information System shall be accessible in the cases specified in laws and regulations.

(6) The amount of the information to be entered in the State Examination Information System, the procedures for the inclusion of information therein, as well as the procedures for ensuring access to the data included in such system shall be determined by the Cabinet.  
[21 March 2019 / See Paragraphs 85 and 86 of Transitional Provisions]

## **Part V**

### **Types of Educational Programmes and Their Implementation**

#### **Section 36. Implementation of Educational Programmes**

(1) Educational programmes are implemented at an educational institution, association, foundation, craftsperson workshop, studio or unit of the National Armed Forces the tasks of which include implementation of adult education programmes. Implementation of an educational programme must be commenced within one year from the day of its licensing.

(1<sup>1</sup>) If an educational programme corresponding to the sample of the educational programme specified by the Cabinet is to be licensed, the educational institution shall enter information thereon in the State Education Information System. An educational programme shall be considered licensed if, in accordance with the procedures for the licensing of educational programmes specified by the Cabinet, there are no grounds for taking the decision to refuse to licence the educational programme.

(2) An educational institution is entitled to implement several educational programmes.

(3) Educational programmes shall be implemented in conditions that are safe for the life and health of a person.

[11 May 2000; 9 July 2013; 5 May 2016; 20 September 2018]

#### **Section 37. Implementation of Educational Programmes in Respect of Time**

(1) Educational programmes shall have a specific implementation period.

(2) The educational work units of time shall be the academic or scholastic year, semester, study week, study day and study lesson (academic hour).

#### **Section 38. Types of Educational Programmes**

(1) The types of educational programmes shall be as follows:

- 1) general education programmes;
- 2) vocational education programmes;
- 3) academic education programmes;
- 4) further education programmes;
- 5) interest-related educational programmes.

(2) The specific types of educational programmes shall be as follows:

- 1) educational programmes for ethnic minorities;
- 2) special education programmes;
- 3) social correction education programmes;
- 4) adult education programmes;
- 5) vocationally oriented education programmes;
- 6) international baccalaureate programmes.

(3) A detailed classification of educational programmes shall be specified by the Classifier of Educational Programmes approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.

[5 July 2001; 20 September 2018]

### **Section 39. Register of Educational Programmes**

(1) Data on all licensed and accredited educational programmes shall be entered in the Register of Educational Programmes, which is a component of the State Education Information System, within one month after licensing or accreditation of a programme.

(2) The Register of Educational Programmes shall be accessible to any person free of charge (also on the Internet). The list of the licensed and accredited educational programmes shall be published once a year not later than by 1 March.

*[4 March 2010; 15 March 2012; 20 September 2018]*

### **Section 40. General Education Programmes**

(1) General education programmes shall ensure the overall development of mental and physical capabilities of educatees and prepare them for the continuation of education, for work, and for life in society.

(2) The General Education Law shall determine the procedures for the implementation of general education programmes. General education programmes and programmes of special types shall be licensed in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Cabinet.

*[11 May 2000; 15 March 2012; 20 September 2018]*

### **Section 41. Educational Programmes for Ethnic Minorities**

(1) Educational programmes for ethnic minorities shall be developed by an educational institution selecting any of the model educational programmes included in the guidelines for the State pre-school education or State basic education standard.

(1<sup>1</sup>) From grades 1 to 6 in educational programmes for ethnic minorities, the acquisition of learning content in the official language shall be ensured in the amount of not less than 50 per cent of the total lesson load in an academic year, including foreign languages.

(1<sup>2</sup>) From grades 7 to 9 in educational programmes for ethnic minorities, the acquisition of learning content in the official language shall be ensured in the amount of not less than 80 per cent of the total lesson load in an academic year, including foreign languages.

(2) Educational programmes for ethnic minorities shall additionally include the content necessary for the acquisition of the relevant ethnic culture and integration of ethnic minorities in Latvia.

(3) *[15 March 2012]*

*[1 December 2009; 4 March 2010; 15 March 2012; 22 March 2018 / Amendments to Paragraph one regarding the replacement of the words "in the respective State education standard" with the words "in the State basic education standard" and regarding the supplementation of the Section with Paragraphs 1.<sup>1</sup> and 1.<sup>2</sup> in relation to the implementation of pre-school education programmes and the implementation of basic education programmes in grades 1–7 shall come into force on 1 September 2019, in relation to the implementation of basic education programmes in grade 8 and the implementation of secondary education programmes in grades 10 and 11 shall come into force on 1 September 2020, and in relation to the implementation of basic education programmes in grade 9 and the implementation of secondary education programmes in grade 12 shall come into force on 1 September 2021. See Paragraph 66 of Transitional Provisions]*

### **Section 42. Special Education Programmes**

(1) A person with special needs may acquire special education at an educational institution if it provides the possibilities for such person to acquire an education corresponding to the health condition and the nature of developmental disorders.

(2) Special education programmes shall be implemented, taking into account the health condition of the educatee.

(3) The General Education Law, the Vocational Education Law, and other laws shall determine the procedures for the implementation of special education programmes.

*[5 July 2001]*

### **Section 43. Social Correction Education Programmes**

(1) Social correction education programmes are undergone by persons with socially deviant behaviour.

(2) Social correction education programmes shall be implemented at social correction education institutions.

[20 September 2018]

### **Section 44. Vocational Education Programmes**

(1) Vocational education programmes shall ensure the development of the mental and physical capacities of educatees, and also their practical and theoretical preparation for professional practice in a particular profession and for life in society.

(2) The Vocational Education Law and the Law on Higher Education Institutions shall determine the procedures for the implementation of vocational education programmes. Vocational education programmes shall be licensed in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Cabinet.

[11 May 2000; 20 September 2018]

### **Section 45. Academic Education Programmes**

(1) Academic education or study programmes shall be implemented by higher education institutions.

(2) The procedures for the implementation of academic education programmes shall be determined in the Law on Higher Education Institutions. Academic education programmes shall be licensed in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the Cabinet.

[11 May 2000; 20 September 2018]

### **Section 46. Adult Education Programmes**

(1) Adult education may be offered in formal and non-formal educational programmes.

(2) The procedures for the implementation of formal adult education programmes shall be determined in this Law, the Vocational Education Law, the Law on Higher Education Institutions, and other laws and regulations.

(3) Non-formal adult education programmes shall lay down the content of such education and the conformity thereof with the interests of the State and employers, as well as individual development, and adults have the right to undertake the completion of such programmes throughout their lives regardless of the previous education.

(4) [4 March 2010]

(5) Educational institutions, as well as units of the National Armed Forces the tasks of which include implementation of adult education programmes are entitled to implement non-formal adult education programmes without obtaining a licence, but other legal and natural persons which are not registered in the Register of Educational Institutions – after receipt of a licence from a local government.

(6) Adult education may be financed from:

- 1) State and local government budgets;
- 2) employer funds;
- 3) educatee funds;
- 4) donations and gifts;
- 5) other funds.

[5 July 2001; 4 March 2010; 9 July 2013]

### **Section 47. Interest-related Educational Programmes**

(1) Interest-related education shall be voluntary, and education corresponding to a particular level of education shall not be required for its commencement.

(2) Educational institutions are entitled to implement interest-related educational programmes without the receipt of a licence.

(3) After receipt of the relevant licence from a local government, other legal persons and natural persons not registered in the Register of Educational Institutions are also entitled to implement interest-related educational programmes.

(4) [11 May 2000]

[11 May 2000; 4 March 2010]

### **Section 47.<sup>1</sup> Vocationally Oriented Education Programmes**

(1) Vocationally oriented education is voluntary. Vocationally oriented education programmes shall be developed by an educational institution.

(2) The procedures for the implementation of vocationally oriented education programmes shall be determined in the Vocational Education Law. Vocationally oriented education programmes shall be licensed in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet.

[5 July 2001; 20 September 2001; 4 March 2010; 20 September 2018]

### **Section 47.<sup>2</sup> International Baccalaureate Programmes**

International baccalaureate programmes are educational programmes developed by the International Baccalaureate within the scope of which specific subjects or courses are completed in a foreign language. The abovementioned programmes shall be considered as licensed and accredited after the International Baccalaureate has authorised the educational institution to implement such programmes. An educational institution shall implement the international baccalaureate programmes concurrently with general education programmes.

[20 September 2018]

## **Chapter VI Teachers and Educatees**

### **Section 48. Right to Work as a Teacher**

(1) A person who has pedagogical education or who is acquiring pedagogical education conforming to the professional qualification requirements specified by the Cabinet has the right to work as a teacher. These requirements shall not apply to non-formal adult education.

(2) A certificate must be obtained at the State Service of Education Quality for the commencement of a private practice of a teacher.

(3) All teachers working at educational institutions and private practices are registered in the Register of Teachers. The Register of Teachers is a component of the State Education Information System.

(4) The requirements for education and qualification of teachers of higher education institutions and colleges shall be determined in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

(5) A person who is loyal to the Republic of Latvia and its Constitution, inter alia, does not violate the prohibition of discrimination and differential treatment towards a person, has the right to work as a teacher.

(6) It is prohibited to hold the position of a teacher if the State Education Quality Service has established in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations a non-conformity of the teacher or his or her actions with the requirements laid down in Section 30, Paragraph four, Paragraphs one and five of this Section, or Section 51, Paragraph one, Clause 2.<sup>1</sup> of this Law.

[11 May 2000; 16 June 2009; 4 March 2010; 15 March 2012; 18 June 2015; 23 November 2016]

### **Section 49. Acquisition of Education and Professional Qualifications and Improvement of Professional Competence of Teachers**

(1) The education necessary for working as a teacher shall be acquired at educational institutions implementing relevant accredited professional and academic educational programmes.

(2) Professional qualifications of a teacher shall be attested by a diploma of higher pedagogical education or by a relevant certificate.

(3) Improvement of professional competence of a teacher shall be achieved in the form of self-education and in institutions implementing relevant further educational programmes.

(4) [11 May 2000]

[11 May 2000; 9 July 2013]

### **Section 49.<sup>1</sup> Assessment of the Quality of the Professional Activity of Teachers**

(1) A teacher whose pedagogical experience is not less than one year and who participates in the implementation of general education programmes, including general education programmes for the level of pre-school education, and vocational education programmes for the level of basic or secondary education, in the implementation of vocationally oriented education or interest-related education programmes, has the right to request the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of a teacher.

(2) The quality of the professional activity of a teacher shall be assessed by a commission established by the head of an educational institution in conformity with the criteria for the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of a teacher. Such criteria shall be developed by the educational institution according to the directions for the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of a teacher and the list of quality levels specified by the Cabinet.

(3) On the basis of the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of a teacher, one of three quality levels of the professional activity of a teacher may be awarded to the teacher. The head of the educational institution shall decide on the awarding of the relevant quality level of the professional activity of a teacher or the refusal to award it within nine months from the day of receipt of an application of the teacher. The head of the educational institution shall take the decision on the basis of a proposal of the commission. The quality level of the professional activity of a teacher shall be awarded for one, two, or three years.

(3<sup>1</sup>) The head of the educational institution has the right to take the decision to withdraw the quality level of the professional activity of a teacher if a non-conformity of the actions of the teacher with the general obligations of a teacher referred to in Section 51 of this Law and the criteria for the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of a teacher is established.

(3<sup>2</sup>) A teacher is entitled to submit an application for repeat assessment of the quality of the professional activity of a teacher not earlier than a year before the end of the term of validity of the quality level.

(4) The conditions of this Section shall not apply to teachers who participate in the implementation of higher education programmes in colleges and higher education institutions.

[9 July 2013; 23 November 2016; 27 July 2017 / See Paragraphs 56 and 57 of Transitional Provisions]

### **Section 50. Restrictions on Working as a Teacher**

(1) The following persons may not work as teachers:

1) a person who has been punished for committing an intentional criminal offence (regardless of the criminal record having been set aside or extinguished), except when after setting aside or extinguishing the criminal record the State Education Quality Service has evaluated whether it does not harm the interests of educatees and has permitted that such person works as a teacher. The Cabinet shall determine the procedures by which the head of an educational institution shall ascertain whether the person has restrictions to work as a teacher, as well as the procedures for the evaluation whether the permission for such person to work as a teacher will not harm the interests of educatees;

2) a person whose capacity to act is limited in accordance with procedures laid down in laws and regulations;

3) in State or local government educational institutions, as well as secondary education institution of State higher education institutions – a person who does not have a document issued in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet that certifies the proficiency in the official language at the highest level, except for the academic personnel of higher education institutions – citizens of other countries and stateless persons who are participating in the implementation of specific educational programmes on the basis of an international agreement;

4) a person who has been deprived, by a court decision, of the right of custody;

5) a person who has been removed from the position of a teacher if a non-conformity with the requirements laid down in Section 30, Paragraph four, Section 48, Paragraph five, or Section 51, Paragraph one, Clause 2.<sup>1</sup> of this Law has been found in his or her action in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations and one year has not passed since termination of employment legal relationship.

(2) Upon evaluating whether the permission for the person referred to in Paragraph one of this Section to work as a teacher will not harm the interests of educatees, the State Education Quality Service is entitled to process the personal data referring to criminal offences, criminal record in criminal cases and cases of administrative violations, as well as to materials of court rulings or court cases.

[11 May 2000; 4 March 2010; 5 July 2012; 18 June 2015; 23 November 2016; judgment of the Constitutional Court of 24 November 2017; 20 September 2018; 30 May 2019]

## **Section 51. General Obligations of a Teacher**

(1) The general obligations of a teacher in the educational process shall be as follows:

1) to participate creatively in the implementation of the relevant educational programmes with due responsibility;

2) to shape responsible attitude of an educatee towards himself or herself, others, work, culture, nature;

2<sup>1</sup>) to raise decent, honest, responsible human beings – patriots of Latvia, to strengthen the belonging to the Republic of Latvia;

3) to conform to the norms of pedagogical professional ethics;

4) to improve their professional competence;

5) to respect the rights of an educatee;

6) to co-operate with the family of an educatee in educational matters;

7) to participate in the improvement of education process and in the council of an educational institution;

8) to fulfil other obligations laid down in laws and regulations.

(2) Teachers of educational institutions shall be responsible for their work, the methods, techniques, and results thereof.

[11 May 2000; 4 March 2010; 15 March 2012; 9 July 2013; 23 November 2016]

## **Section 52. Rights of Teachers**

(1) Teachers have the following rights:

1) to participate in the council of an educational institution;

2) to receive a State-guaranteed annual paid vacation of eight weeks;

3) on the basis of a contract for the development of teaching aids, to receive a paid leave of absence for creative work for up to three months, or an unpaid leave of absence for up to six months, in accordance with procedures specified by the Cabinet;

4) to spend 30 calendar days in a three year period for his or her professional skill improvement, retaining the basic salary at the educational institution in which the teacher has principal employment;

5) to receive and use the informative and material provisions necessary for the implementation of an educational programme;

6) to receive public support for the implementation of an educational programme;

7) to receive a benefit from the financial resources of the founder of the educational institution due to death of a family member (spouse, child, parents, grandparents, adopter or adoptee, brother or sister) in the amount of not more than one minimum monthly salary.

(1<sup>1</sup>) Where external regulatory enactments do not specify otherwise, State and local government educational institutions and educational institutions of State higher education institutions may specify the following additional remuneration for a teacher from the financial resources of the founder and the financial resources referred to in Section 59, Paragraph four of this Law:

1) a benefit in the amount of up to 50 per cent of the monthly salary once in a calendar year for each dependent disabled child up to 18 years of age;

2) health insurance. The health insurance premium may not exceed half of the amount specified in the laws and regulations regarding personal income tax. If the insurance premium exceeds the abovementioned amount, the teacher shall cover the difference of the premium.

(1<sup>2</sup>) The restriction specified in Paragraph one, Clause 7 of this Section in relation to the amount of the benefit shall not apply to private educational institutions.

(2) A teacher of general basic education and general secondary education of a general education institution founded by a local government who has less than three years left until the attainment of the retirement age in accordance with the Law on State Pensions and the total length of employment of the teacher in State and local government educational institutions implementing general education programmes is at least 25 years, including the last five years prior to the liquidation or reorganisation of an educational institution have been worked at a local government educational institution implementing general basic or general secondary education programmes, and who loses employment in case of reorganisation or liquidation of an educational institution and henceforth does not earn income from paid employment, commercial activity, or economic activity, regardless of his or her financial situation, has the right to receive State social support up to the amount of the average earnings of six months in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet.

(3) A teacher whom the State old-age pension has been granted or who receives unemployment benefit in accordance with the law On Unemployment Insurance shall not receive the State social support referred to in Paragraph two of this Section.

(4) State social mandatory insurance payments for pension and unemployment insurance from the State basic budget resources allocated for such purpose are made from the State social support referred to in Paragraph two of this Section. The Cabinet shall determine the procedures by which State social mandatory insurance payments for pension and unemployment insurance shall be made and registered.

*[11 May 2000; 4 March 2010; 9 July 2013; 22 November 2017; 22 March 2018 / Clause 7 of Paragraph one shall come into force on 1 September 2019. Paragraphs two, three, and four shall be in force until 31 December 2020. See Paragraphs 62 and 73 of Transitional Provisions]*

### **Section 53. Work Remuneration of a Teacher**

(1) The monthly salary for a teacher shall be determined according to the rate of the monthly salary which is not lower than the rate specified by the Cabinet and the workload. When determining the monthly salary, the duration of employment of the teacher may also be taken into account in accordance with the Cabinet regulations regarding the procedures for the payment of work remuneration of teachers and the amount thereof, as well as the professional qualification of a teacher.

(2) A supplement to the monthly salary in the amount specified by the head of an educational institution shall be established for a teacher whom a quality level of professional activity has been awarded, taking into account the financial resources at the disposal of the educational institution for such purpose. The quality level shall be taken into account in the educational institution where the quality of the professional activity of the teacher was assessed.

(3) The work salary for one full-time workload for a teacher shall be not less than the work salary specified in the schedule for increase in work remuneration of teachers approved by the Cabinet in the relevant period of time.

*[27 July 2017]*

### **Section 54. Obligations of an Educatee**

An educatee has the following obligations:

- 1) to complete the basic education programme;
- 2) to comply with the by-laws or the constitution and the internal regulatory enactments of the educational institution and not discredit the educational institution by his or her behaviour;
- 3) to treat the State of Latvia, the Constitution, history, society, State symbols thereof and the Latvian language with respect;
- 4) to respect the rights and interests of teachers, educatees, and other persons;
- 5) to prevent emotional and physical violence;
- 6) not to endanger the health, safety, and life of himself or herself or of other persons;



- 7) to be polite at an educational institution and outside of it;
- 8) to be in an educational institution in clothing that corresponds to the internal regulatory enactments, including internal procedure regulations;
- 9) to participate in the cleaning up and orderly arrangement of the environment of an educational institution.

[4 March 2010; 18 June 2015]

### **Section 55. Rights of an Educatee**

An educatee has the following rights:

- 1) to the acquisition of pre-school education, basic education, and secondary education paid by the State or local government;
- 2) to freely express and defend his or her views and opinions during the educational and upbringing process, not insulting the dignity and honour of other persons;
- 3) to use the premises, laboratories, equipment, devices, cultural, sports and medical objects and inventory, schoolbooks, other literature necessary for the learning process, teaching aids and electronic teaching resources of an educational institution, as well as to receive library, information and career development support services during the learning process in accordance with the procedures laid down in the internal regulatory enactments, including internal procedure regulations;
- 4) to receive scholarships, credits, benefits, discounts, as well as grants for the use of public transport in accordance with the procedures laid down in laws and regulations and material assistance of another type;
- 5) to receive preventive health care, except for the preventive examinations included in the preventive examination programme provided for in the laws and regulations regarding organisation and financing of health care, and emergency medical assistance at the educational institution and the organised events thereof;
- 6) to participate in the improvement of learning process and in the council of the educational institution;
- 7) to the protection of belongings at the educational institution;
- 8) to safe circumstances for life and health at an educational institution and the organised events thereof;
- 9) to exercise other rights laid down in laws and regulations.

[4 March 2010; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015]

### **Section 56. Rights of an Orphan and Child Left without Parental Care to Acquisition and Improvement of Education**

- (1) An orphan and a child left without parental care have the right to acquire education at any State or local government educational institution.
- (2) An orphan and a child left without parental care shall be educated in the official language. The orphan and the child left without parental care shall continue their education in the official language or the language in which it has been commenced in a Latvian State or local government educational institution.
- (3) Minor orphans and children left without parental care who are members of the same family shall be educated at the same general basic education institution and shall not be separated, except when one of them is placed in a special education institution, class, or social correction education institution or it is in the interests of the children to be educated at different educational institutions.

[2 February 2004; 4 March 2010; 20 September 2018]

### **Section 57. Rights of Parents (Persons who Exercise Custody) in the Provision of Education of a Child**

Parents (persons who exercise custody) have the following rights:

- 1) to choose the educational institution in which the child will acquire education;

- 2) to participate in the improvement of the learning process and in the council of the educational institution;
- 3) to conclude a contract with the educational institution for the education of and care for the child at the educational institution;
- 4) to provide and receive information regarding issues related to the upbringing and teaching of the child;
- 5) to propose the performance of inspections at the educational institution;
- 6) to exercise other rights laid down in laws and regulations for the provision of the education of the child.

[4 March 2010; 9 July 2013]

### **Section 58. Obligations of Parents (Persons who Exercise Custody)**

(1) Parents (persons who exercise custody) have the following obligations:

- 1) within the scope of their abilities and material possibilities, to ensure the necessary conditions in the family for the education, health, development, and social life of the child;
- 2) to co-operate with the educational institution in which the child acquires education, with the teachers and other persons involved in the learning process;
- 3) to respect the lawful rights and interests of children, teachers, and other persons;
- 4) to inform the head of an educational institution of the health condition of the child and other circumstances, if they may be significant for the learning process.

(2) The parents (persons who exercise custody) shall be responsible for ensuring that the child acquires the compulsory education.

(3) Parents (persons who exercise custody) have an obligation to ensure, within the limits of their financial possibilities, the individual study accessories referred to in Section 1, Clause 12.<sup>5</sup>, Sub-clause "k" of this Law for education of his or her child.

(4) The decision of the council of an educational institution referred to in Section 31, Paragraph three, Clause 5 of this Law is binding on parents (persons who exercise custody).

[4 March 2010; 9 July 2013; 20 September 2018]

## **Chapter VII**

### **Financial and Material Resources of the Education System**

[5 February 2004]

### **Section 59. Sources of Financing of the Education System**

(1) State educational institutions shall be financed from the State budget in accordance with the annual State budget law. Local government educational institutions shall be financed from local government budgets. Secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions shall be financed from the budgets of higher education institutions. The State shall participate in the financing of local government educational institutions and secondary education institutions of the State higher education institutions in the cases provided for in this Law. In order to promote the acquisition, development, and preservation of the minority ethnic culture and the integration of minorities in Latvia, the State may participate in additional financing of work remuneration for the teachers employed at educational institutions which, on the basis of bilateral and multilateral international agreements of the Republic of Latvia, are implementing educational programmes for ethnic minorities in which the number of minority educatees does not exceed six per cent of the total number of educatees who are acquiring educational programmes for ethnic minorities.

(2) Private educational institutions shall be financed by the founders thereof. The State shall participate in the financing of work remuneration for teachers of private educational institutions in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet if these educational institutions implement pre-school education programmes for children from the age of five years until commencement of the acquisition of basic education, accredited basic education and general secondary education programmes, industrial education, and vocational secondary education programmes. The State shall participate in the financing of work remuneration for teachers employed in vocationally oriented education programmes implemented in accredited private vocationally oriented education institutions. Local governments may participate in the financing of work remuneration for teachers of private educational institutions.

(2<sup>1</sup>) The purchase of study literature, methodological aids, additional literature (reference literature) and digital teaching aids and resources (electronic editions) corresponding to the guidelines for the State pre-school education, State basic education and general secondary education standards in private educational institutions shall be financed from the State budget funds and earmarked grants from the State budget.

(3) Local government special education institutions which implement special education programmes at the level of basic education or secondary education and ensure the services of a boarding school, as well as special education institutions – development or rehabilitation centres – shall be financed from the State budget in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet.

(3<sup>1</sup>) Catering of such educatees who are completing basic education programmes in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 at educational institutions in full-time studies shall be financed from the State budget in accordance with the procedures and in the amount specified by the Cabinet. Local governments shall participate in covering the costs of catering of such educatees who are acquiring basic education programmes in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 at educational institutions (except for State educational institutions) in the administrative territory of the relevant local government in full-time studies. The amount of the resources allocated from the budget of a local government for the catering of one educatee per day shall not be lower than that ensured by the State.

(4) Educational institutions may receive additional financial resources:

- 1) in the form of donations and gifts;
- 2) by providing paid services in the cases provided for in the by-laws or the constitution of the institution;
- 3) from other income.

(5) Education support institutions shall be financed by the founders thereof.

(6) The State shall financially support and a local government, in accordance with the procedures specified thereby and in conformity with the criteria specified thereby, may financially support adult education by financing non-formal adult education programmes, as well as by supporting employers in additional education of employees.

*[11 November 1999; 11 May 2000; 5 February 2004; judgment of the Constitutional Court of 14 September 2005; 13 November 2008; 1 December 2009; 4 March 2010; 15 December 2011; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 23 November 2016; 22 November 2017; 22 March 2018; 14 November 2019. Amendment to Paragraph three regarding the deletion of the words “or rehabilitation” shall come into force on 1 September 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2020. Amendment to Paragraph two in relation to the financing of work remuneration for the teachers employed at industrial and vocational secondary education programmes of private educational institutions shall come into force on 1 January 2023. Paragraph six in relation to the State financial support to adult education shall come into force not later than on 31 December 2022. See Paragraphs 30, 44, and 77 of Transitional Provisions]*

## **Section 60. Procedures for the Financing of Educational Institutions**

(1) Founders of educational institutions shall ensure the financing of such institutions, taking into account:

- 1) the minimum costs for the implementation of educational programmes per one educatee specified by the Cabinet;
- 2) the maintenance and economic expenditures of educational institutions, including salaries of the general service personnel, as well as expenditures related to international co-operation;
- 3) the maintenance expenditures for educatees at the educational institution.

(2) In certain administrative territories, the Cabinet may specify different costs for the implementation of educational programmes per one educatee.

(3) Costs of educational programmes to be implemented in educational institutions shall include expenditures which are necessary for the work remuneration of teachers involved in the implementation of an educational programme, for the provision the educational institutions with teaching aids, economic expenditure thereof, as well as for other necessary expenditures. The work remuneration for teachers at State or local government educational institutions, as well as secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions, including the work

remuneration for teachers employed in the education of children from five years of age, as well as the work remuneration for teachers in special education groups of pre-school special education institutions and special education groups of secondary education institutions is ensured from the State budget funds and the earmarked grants from the State budget. The work remuneration for other teachers implementing pre-school education programmes in local government educational institutions, if it is not otherwise provided for in other laws, shall be provided from the local government budget. Local governments may participate in the financing of work remuneration for teachers of educational programmes implemented by the State and local government educational institutions. Local governments may finance the social guarantees of teachers of local government educational institutions from their budgets in the amount and according to the procedures laid down in the binding regulations. Social guarantees may be provided for teachers of educational institutions subordinate to ministries within the scope of the approved budget. Preparation and publication of teaching aids in conformity with the guidelines for the State pre-school education and the State education standards shall be financed within the amount of the funds granted by the annual State budget.

(3<sup>1</sup>) The purchase of study literature, methodological aids, additional literature (reference literature), and digital teaching aids and resources (electronic editions) corresponding to the guidelines for the State pre-school education, State standards for basic education and general secondary education in State and local government educational institutions, as well as secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions shall be financed from the State budget funds and earmarked grants from the State budget.

(3<sup>2</sup>) *[Paragraph shall come into force on 1 September 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2020. See Paragraph 64 of Transitional Provisions]*

(4) If an educational institution implements several educational programmes, financial resources shall be planned for each educational programme according to its implementation costs. Several educational programmes may be implemented at one educational institution, and they may be financed from various sources – from the resources of the State, local governments, as well as State higher education institutions which are derived public persons, as well as other legal and natural persons.

(5) Allocations from the State budget and local government budgets for the activities of educational institutions shall be planned according to the draft estimates (budgetary requests) submitted by educational institutions and used according to the approved estimate. Financing of educational institutions shall be planned according to the number of educatees at an institution and the minimum costs for the implementation of the educational programme per one educatee.

(6) Income from economic activity of educational institutions and paid services provided thereby and other types of own revenue shall not affect the amount of State budget grant from the general income and local government annual budget allocations.

(7) The financial resources referred to in Section 59, Paragraph four of this Law shall be paid into the relevant budget account of the relevant educational institution and shall only be used for the following purposes:

- 1) development of the educational institution;
- 2) purchase of teaching aids;
- 3) purchase of equipment for the institution;
- 4) bonuses and gratuities for teachers and material incentives for educatees and for the

work remuneration of teachers implementing vocational basic education, vocational secondary education, or vocationally oriented education programmes in sports, music, and arts at State or local government educational institutions.

(8) Money balances of paid services provided by State and local government educational institutions and of other types of own revenue at the end of a financial year shall remain at the disposal of the relevant State or local government educational institution for the next financial year and they shall not be directed for other purposes.

(9) The procedures for the financing of higher education institutions and colleges shall be determined by the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

(10) *[Paragraph ten shall come into force on 1 September 2021 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2021. See Paragraph 78 of Transitional Provisions]*

*[5 August 1999; 11 May 2000; 5 July 2001; 5 February 2004; 16 June 2009; 1 December 2009; 4 March 2010; 9 July 2013; 18 June 2015; 22 November 2017; 22 March 2018]*

**Section 61. Support for Education System**

The accumulation, management, supervision, and distribution of the State budget resources and local government budget resources, gifts of legal or natural persons of Latvia and foreign countries, donations, and other resources granted for the implementation of support for the educational system shall be provided in accordance with the procedures laid down in the law.  
[16 June 2009]

**Section 62. Material Resources of Educational Institutions and Education Support Institutions**

(1) Material resources of educational institutions and education support institutions are the immovable and movable property owned, administrated, or used by such institutions. If a State educational institution, except for State higher education institutions, is located on immovable property owned by the State, such property shall be registered in the Land Register in the name of the State, represented by the Ministry of Education and Science. The State property transferred into the administration of State higher education institutions shall be registered in the name of the State, represented by the relevant higher education institution.

(2) The property of educational institutions shall be formed according to the requirements of the educational programmes and used for the implementation of educational programmes and maintenance of educational institutions.

(3) Material resources of educational institutions and educational support institutions shall be formed and developed, using resources allocated by the founders of such institutions and supplementary financial sources.

(4) Buildings, parts thereof and land managed or used by the State and local government educational institutions shall be used for the performance of the educational process and for other purposes referred to in this Law. Transfer of buildings, parts thereof or land managed or used by educational institutions to third parties shall be allowed if it does not endanger the health, life, or safety of educatees, if it is not in contradiction with moral and ethical norms, and does not interfere with the educational process, as well as with the performance of other activities provided for in this Law. Transfer of buildings, parts thereof or land to third parties shall be permitted by entering into a written contract which shall be registered with the Ministry of Education and Science, another sectoral ministry, or with the relevant local government.

(5) A contract which an educational institution has concluded with a legal or natural person in regard to the use of the land, buildings or separate parts thereof which have been transferred into the management or use of the educational institution shall include a provision which provides that the educational institution may terminate the contract, giving a notice to the user thereon one month in advance, if the used object is necessary for the educational institution in order to carry out the educational process or other activities provided for in this Law, or if such use endangers the health, life, or safety of educatees, or if it is in contradiction with moral and ethical norms.

[5 February 2004]

**Chapter VIII****Administrative Violations in the Field of Education and Competence in the Process of Administrative Violations**

*[Chapter shall come into force on 1 July 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020. See Paragraph 87 of Transitional Provisions]*

**Section 63.** *[Section shall come into force on 1 July 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020. See Paragraph 87 of Transitional Provisions]*

**Section 64.** *[Section shall come into force on 1 July 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020. See Paragraph 87 of Transitional Provisions]*

**Section 65.** *[Section shall come into force on 1 July 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020. See Paragraph 87 of Transitional Provisions]*

**Section 66.** [Section shall come into force on 1 July 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020. See Paragraph 87 of Transitional Provisions]

**Section 67.** [Section shall come into force on 1 July 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020. See Paragraph 87 of Transitional Provisions]

**Section 68.** [Section shall come into force on 1 July 2020 and shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020. See Paragraph 87 of Transitional Provisions]

### **Transitional Provisions**

1. This Law shall come into force on 1 June 1999.

2. With the coming into force of this Law, the Education Law of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Augstākās Padomes un Valdības Ziņotājs*, 1991, No. 31./32; *Latvijas Republikas Saeimas un Ministru Kabineta Ziņotājs*, 1995, No. 18; 1997, No. 3) is repealed.

3. The Minister for Education and Science shall, by 1 September 1999, ensure the development of the laws and regulations related to this Law and submit such to the Cabinet for approval.

4. Section 53 of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2004. Until 1 September 2004, the work remuneration for teachers shall be determined in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 73 of 15 February 2000, Regulations Regarding Work Remuneration of Teachers.  
[5 February 2004]

5. Section 48, Paragraph one of this Law shall come into force:

1) on 1 September 2004 –

a) with respect to teachers with higher education who implemented general education programmes already in the 2000/2001 academic year and continue to do so up to the coming into force of this provision,

b) with respect to teachers who have documents issued by State educational institutions on the pedagogical secondary education or an appropriate professional secondary education in the relevant subject (course) and additional pedagogical education, and who implemented general education programmes already in the 2000/2001 academic year, as well as continue to do so up to the coming into force of this provision, except for the teachers referred to in Paragraph 5.<sup>1</sup> of these Transitional Provisions;

2) on 1 September 2002 – with respect to the education of such teachers who implement other educational programmes.

Until coming into force of this provision, the requirements for the education of the teachers implementing educational programmes shall be determined by the Ministry of Education and Science.

[10 May 2001; 5 February 2004]

5.<sup>1</sup> Teachers whose education does not conform to the requirements of Section 48, Paragraph one of this Law, but who have documents issued by State educational institutions on pedagogical secondary education or an appropriate professional secondary education in the relevant subject (course) and additional pedagogical education, and for whom on 1 September 2004 five or less years are left until reaching the retirement age specified by the State, have the right to continue to work as a teacher up to the end of the academic year in which the State specified retirement age is attained.

[5 February 2004]

6. State and local government educational institutions which have commenced the implementation of educational programmes in line with the type and profile of the educational institution until the day of coming into force of this Law may continue to implement these programmes by obtaining a licence for the implementation of the relevant educational programme within three years.

7. A private educational institution which has obtained a licence for the opening of an educational institution until the day of coming into force of this Law is entitled to continue the implementation of the relevant educational programme until expiration term of the licence.

8. Until the day of coming into force of this Law, an accredited educational institution, if it does not have an accredited educational programme, is entitled to issue State-approved education documents on the acquisition of education according to educational programmes until the end of the accreditation period.

9. Section 9, Paragraph one and Paragraph two, Clause 2 of this Law shall come into force progressively:

1) on 1 September 1999 – with respect to higher education institutions;

2) on 1 September 1999 – State and local government general education institutions with another language for studies shall commence the implementation of educational programmes for ethnic minorities or a transition to studies in the official language;

3) on 1 September 2004 – in State and local government general secondary education institutions which implement minority education programmes, commencing from the tenth grade, learning shall take place in the official language according to the State general secondary education standard; in State and local government vocational education institutions commencing from the first academic year learning shall take place in the official language according to the State professional education standard or the State vocational secondary education standard. The State general secondary education standard, the State professional education standard, and the State vocational secondary education standard shall specify that the acquisition of the learning content in the official language shall be ensured for not less than three-fifths of the total lesson load in the academic year, including foreign languages, and shall ensure that content related to the minority language, identity and culture shall be taught in the minority language.

[5 February 2004]

10. All educational institutions and other institutions implementing educational programmes shall, within a year from coming into force of this Law, submit to the Ministry of Education and Science all the data necessary for registration in the Register of Educational Programmes, Register of Educational Institutions and the Register of Teachers, and shall agree upon the names of the educational institutions with the classification of the Register of Educational Programmes and the Register of Educational Institutions.

11. Extracurricular institutions which have been founded before the day of coming into force of this Law shall retain their status and their activity shall, within a year, be coordinated with the provisions of Section 47 corresponding to interest-related education.

12. Educational institutions which have been founded before the day of coming into force of this Law and continue to operate shall be registered in the Register of Educational Institutions until 1 March 1999 in conformity with the provisions of Sections 24 and 39 of this Law.

13. Amendments to Section 59, Paragraph two of this Law regarding the financing of private educational institutions (which implement accredited basic education and general secondary education programmes in the official language) according to the minimum costs for the implementation of educational programmes per one educatee stipulated by the Cabinet shall come into force on 1 September 2001.

[11 May 2000]

14. The Cabinet shall develop the procedures by which preventive health care and access to emergency medical assistance shall be provided to educatees at educational institutions by 31 December 2001.

[5 July 2001]

15. Amendments to Section 4 of this Law regarding the preparation of five-year old and six-year old children for the acquisition of basic education and to Section 60, Paragraph three regarding the ensuring of the work remuneration for teachers from State budget funds and earmarked grants from the State budget in State or local government educational institutions for the teaching of five-year old and six-year old children shall come into force on 1 September 2002.

*[5 July 2001]*

16. From 1 January 2002, interest-related education programmes which on 1 September 2001 were already being implemented at local government educational institutions (music, art schools and sport education institutions) shall constitute vocationally oriented education programmes and shall receive funds from the State budget earmarked for the work remuneration of teachers starting from 1 January 2002. This provision shall not apply to interest-related education programmes in general physical preparation groups and theatre interest-related education programmes implemented by the abovementioned educational institutions.

*[20 September 2001]*

17. The provisions of Section 47.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two of this Law regarding the obtaining of a licence for the implementation of a vocationally oriented education programme shall come into force on 1 March 2002. In order to continue implementation of vocationally oriented education programmes and to receive funds from the State budget earmarked for the work remuneration of teachers in 2003, the licence for the implementation of vocationally oriented education programmes must be received by 1 September 2002.

*[20 September 2001]*

18. Samples of vocationally oriented education programmes shall be approved by the Minister for Education and Science by 1 March 2002.

*[20 September 2001]*

19. Accredited music and art schools which were already implementing interest-related education programmes on 1 September 2001 and which shall constitute vocationally oriented education programmes from 1 January 2002 shall be recognised as accredited educational institutions until the end of the time period specified for the accreditation.

*[20 September 2001]*

20. Amendments to Section 30, Paragraph four of this Law regarding concurrent accreditation of educational institutions and heads of a State or local government basic or secondary education institution shall come into force on 1 September 2003.

*[20 September 2001]*

21. The educatees of State or local government educational institutions who have commenced completion of interest-related education programmes on 1 September 2001 which are to be vocationally oriented education programmes from 1 January 2002 shall, after completion of such programmes, receive a certificate on the acquisition of vocationally oriented education.

*[20 September 2001]*

22. Amendments to Section 1, Clause 9 (regarding the supplementation of the term “education administration institution” with a word “structural unit”), Section 17, Paragraph three (regarding the determination of functions of city local governments and municipality local governments), as well as the new wording of Section 18 (regarding ensuring of functions of local governments in the field of education) of this Law shall come into force on 1 July 2009.

*[13 November 2008]*

23. In accordance with this Law, the remuneration specified in State and local government authorities (salary, bonuses, gratuities, allowances, etc.) in 2009 shall be determined in accordance with the Law on Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities in 2009.

*[12 December 2008]*



24. The Cabinet shall, by 1 January 2010, issue the guidelines for State pre-school education determined in Section 14, Clause 18.1 of this Law.

[1 December 2009]

25. In 2011, bonuses shall not be paid to teachers of educational institutions founded by the State and local governments, but they shall be materially incentivized and allowances shall be disbursed thereto in accordance with the Law on Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities.

[16 December 2010]

26. The Cabinet shall issue the regulations provided for in amendments to this Law which come into force as of 26 March 2010 by 31 August 2010, but the regulations provided for in Section 14, Clauses 31 and 34 of this Law – not later than by 31 December 2022.

[4 March 2010; 17 December 2014; 23 November 2016]

27. Until issue of the Cabinet regulations provided for in Paragraph 26 of the Transitional Provisions of this Law, but not later than until 31 August 2010, the following Cabinet regulations shall be applied insofar as they are not in contradiction with this Law:

1) Cabinet Regulation No. 773 of 18 October 2005, Procedures for the Acquisition of Education and Professional Improvement for Vocational Education Teachers;

2) Cabinet Regulation No. 570 of 28 August 2007, Procedures for the Professional Improvement for General Education Teachers and Interest-related Education Teachers;

3) Cabinet Regulation No. 264 of 15 April 2008, Regulations Regarding Procedures for State Examinations in Accredited Educational Programmes.

[4 March 2010]

28. Amendments to Section 14, Clause 26 of this Law regarding the procedures by which the State shall finance vocationally oriented education programmes shall come into force on 1 January 2012.

[4 March 2010]

29. Amendments to Section 27 of this Law regarding accreditation for six years of educational institutions implementing basic and secondary level education programmes shall come into force on 1 January 2012.

[4 March 2010]

30. Section 59, Paragraph six of this Law in relation to financial support of local governments to adult education shall come into force on 1 January 2013, but in relation to State financial support to adult education – not later than on 31 December 2022.

[15 November 2012; 17 December 2014; 23 November 2016]

31. In 2012, bonuses shall not be paid to teachers of educational institutions founded by the State and local governments, but teachers shall be materially incentivized and allowances shall be disbursed thereto in accordance with the Law on Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities.

[15 December 2011]

32. After coming into force of amendments made to Section 14, Clause 18 of this Law (regarding the guidelines for educational development for the following seven years), the Cabinet shall submit the first guidelines for educational development for the following seven years for approval to the *Saeima* for the time period from 2014 to 2020.

[15 March 2012]

33. The Cabinet shall, by 31 August 2012, develop and submit to the *Saeima* the necessary amendments to the Law on the Protection of the Children's Rights in order to harmonise it with the amendments made to Section 50, Clause 1 of this Law (in relation to the prohibition to work as a teacher to a person who has been punished for committing an intentional criminal offence).

[5 July 2012]

34. In 2013, a severance benefit shall be disbursed to teachers at educational institutions founded by the State and local governments in accordance with the Law on Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities.

[15 November 2012]

35. The quality levels of professional activity of a teacher awarded to teachers the quality of whose professional activity has been assessed during the time period from 1 September 2009 to 31 May 2014 on the basis of the criteria developed and according to the procedures laid down in the project of the European Social Fund "Raising Teachers' Competitiveness during Optimisation of Education System" are considered equivalent to the levels of quality of professional activity of a teacher which have been determined by the Cabinet in accordance with Section 14, Clause 37 of this Law.

[9 July 2013]

36. The Cabinet shall issue the regulations referred to in Section 14, Clauses 12.<sup>2</sup>, 15 and 36 of this Law by 30 August 2013, and the regulations referred to in Section 14, Clause 37 of this Law – by 31 May 2014.

[9 July 2013; 17 December 2014]

37. Section 59, Paragraph 2.<sup>1</sup> and Section 60, Paragraph 3.<sup>1</sup> of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2013.

[9 July 2013]

38. Amendments to Section 11.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph one of this Law providing for the specification by the Cabinet of the price list of paid services provided within the scope of expert-examination of documents shall come into force on 1 July 2015.

[17 December 2014]

39. The services provided within the scope of an expert-examination to a person who has submitted an education document issued in a foreign country or a document certifying an academic degree acquired in a foreign country to the Academic Information Centre for expert-examination until 30 June 2015 shall be free of charge.

[17 December 2014; 18 June 2015]

40. The Cabinet shall, by 31 December 2016, issue the regulations referred to in Section 14, Clause 1.<sup>1</sup> of this Law.

[18 June 2015]

41. [20 September 2018]

42. The Cabinet shall, by 30 June 2016, issue the regulations referred to in Section 14, Clause 38 of this Law.

[18 June 2015]

43. Amendments regarding the deletion of Section 15, Clause 24 and Section 16, Clause 7 of this Law, as well as regarding the supplementation of Section 14 with Clause 7.<sup>1</sup> regarding approval of the by-laws of State educational institutions shall come into force on 1 September 2018. The by-laws of State educational institutions which have been approved by the Ministry of Education and Science or another sectoral ministry until 31 August 2018 shall be in effect after this time period insofar as they are not in contradiction with this Law. Amendments to these by-laws shall be approved by the Cabinet. The text of amendments to the by-laws of an educational institution, as well as full text of the by-laws in the new wording must be submitted to the Cabinet.

[18 June 2015]

44. Amendment to Section 59, Paragraph two of this Law in relation to the financing of work remuneration for teachers employed at industrial and vocational education programmes of private educational institutions shall come into force on 1 January 2023.

[18 June 2015; 23 November 2016]

45. The Cabinet shall, not later than by 31 October 2015, make amendments to Cabinet Regulation No. 1616 of 22 December 2009, Procedures for the Calculation and Division of the Earmarked Grant from the State Budget for Local Government Educational Institutions for the Work Remuneration for Teachers of Pre-school Education Employed in Education of Children from Five Years of Age and for the Work Remuneration for Teachers of General Basic and General Secondary Education Institutions of Local Governments, determining the procedures by which the earmarked grant from the State budget for the work remuneration for teachers of secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions shall be calculated and divided.

[18 June 2015]

46. Amendments to Section 60, Paragraph three of this Law regarding the work remuneration for teachers of secondary education institutions of State higher education institutions shall come into force on 1 January 2016.

[18 June 2015]

47. The Cabinet shall, by 1 February 2016, issue the regulations provided for in Section 14, Clause 36 of this Law regarding the methodology by which a local government shall determine the average costs necessary per one educatee in the pre-school education programme (from the age of 18 months until commencing acquisition of basic education) at local government educational institutions, and the procedures by which a local government shall, according to the costs specified thereby, cover the costs of a pre-school education programme for a private educational institution. Until the day of coming into force of the Cabinet regulations, Cabinet Regulation No. 1523 of 17 December 2013, Procedures by which a Local Government shall Cover the Costs of a Pre-school Education Programme for a Private Educational Institution According to the Specified Average Costs Thereof, shall be applied.

[3 December 2015]

48. Certificates for the commencement of a private practice of a teacher which have been issued until 31 December 2016 shall be valid until the end of their term of validity.

[5 May 2016]

49. The provisions of Paragraphs two and three of Section 24 which come into force on 1 June 2016 shall apply to the educational institutions already included in the Register of Educational Institutions if they, starting from 1 June 2016, make changes in any of the information already included in the Register of Educational Institutions.

[5 May 2016]

50. The maintenance expenses in boarding schools of local governments from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 shall be covered from the earmarked grant from the State budget for educatees of a boarding school who are orphans or children left without parental care, as well as for educatees from poor and low-income families in conformity with the Cabinet regulations governing the procedures for the financing of boarding schools.

[23 November 2016]

51. The maintenance expenses in pre-school special education institutions of local governments from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 shall be covered from the financial resources from the State budget in the amount of 30 per cent from the State financing allocated to pre-school special education institutions of local governments in 2016.

[23 November 2016]

52. The Cabinet shall, not later than by 31 March 2017, make amendments to Cabinet Regulation No. 350 of 17 June 2014, Procedures for the Quality Assessment of the Professional Activity of Teachers, in accordance with amendments to Section 49.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two of this Law (regarding determination of three quality levels of the professional activity of teachers). In order to ensure the improvement of the system for the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of teachers, quality levels of professional activity of teachers shall not be awarded until the day when the abovementioned amendments to Cabinet regulations will come into force, but not longer than until 31 August 2017.

[23 November 2016]

53. A document certifying the quality level of the professional activity of a teacher which has been issued until 31 December 2016 shall be valid until the term of validity indicated therein. The third, fourth and fifth quality level of the professional activity of a teacher which has been awarded in accordance with the legal framework that was in force until 31 December 2016 is considered equivalent to the first, second and third quality level of the professional activity of a teacher accordingly in accordance with amendments made to Section 49.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two of this Law determining the three quality levels of the professional activity of teachers.

[23 November 2016]

54. The Cabinet shall, by 30 June 2017, make amendments to Cabinet Regulation No. 445 of 5 July 2016, Regulations Regarding Work Remuneration of Teachers, in accordance with amendments to Section 53, Paragraph one of this Law (regarding determination of work remuneration of a teacher if the length of employment of a teacher is taken into account).

[23 November 2016]

55. The Cabinet shall, by 30 September 2017, issue the regulations referred to in Section 14, Clause 37 of this Law.

[27 July 2017]

56. Educational institutions implementing the educational programmes referred to in Section 49.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph one of this Law shall, by 30 November 2017, develop the criteria and procedures for the assessment of the quality of the professional activity of teachers in conformity with the provisions of laws and regulations. Applications for the assessment of the quality of professional activity shall be submitted to an educational institution starting from 1 December 2017.

[27 July 2017]

57. Applications of teachers for the assessment of the quality of professional activity which have been submitted until 9 August 2017, on the basis of the provisions of Section 49.<sup>1</sup> of this Law, shall be examined in conformity with the provisions of this Law which were in force until 9 August 2017.

[27 July 2017]

58. Teachers whose quality of professional activity has been assessed in accordance with the provisions of this Law which were in force until 31 December 2016 and the term of validity of the certificates of quality of professional activity issued to whom expires on 31 August 2017 have the right, until 31 August 2018, to continue the receipt of the supplement for the quality level of professional activity in the amount in which the teacher has been receiving it until 9 August 2017.

[27 July 2017]

59. Teachers to whom the document certifying the quality level of professional activity has been issued until 9 August 2017 have the right, until the end of the term of validity of the document certifying the quality level, to continue the receipt of the supplement for the quality level of professional activity in the amount in which the teacher has been receiving it until 9 August 2017.

[27 July 2017]

60. Amendments to Section 17, Paragraph three, Clauses 1, 2, 12, and 13 of this Law in relation to the deletion of the words "boarding school" shall come into force as of 1 August 2019.

[22 November 2017]

61. New boarding schools may not be founded after 1 January 2018. The State shall continue to co-finance the boarding schools founded until the abovementioned date until 31 December 2018. [22 November 2017]

62. Section 14, Clause 40 and Section 52, Paragraphs two, three, and four of this Law shall be in force until 31 December 2020. [22 November 2017]

63. Section 14, Clauses 41 and 42 of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2018. The Cabinet shall, by 31 August 2018, issue the Cabinet regulations referred to in Section 14, Clauses 41 and 42 of this Law. [22 November 2017]

64. Section 60, Paragraph 3.<sup>2</sup> of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2020. Until 31 August 2020, the State shall provide work remuneration for the teachers employed at the level secondary education of general education programmes implemented by general education institutions of local governments, general education institutions of State higher education institutions, and private general education institutions in accordance with the provisions of Section 59, Paragraph two and Section 60, Paragraph three of this Law. [22 November 2017 / *The abovementioned amendment shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2020*]

65. The Cabinet shall, by 31 March 2018, develop and submit a draft law to the *Saeima* regarding the necessary amendments to the General Education Law, providing for exclusion of the norm regarding the possibilities of acquiring education at boarding schools from the Law. [22 November 2017]

66. Amendments to Section 9 of this Law regarding the supplementation of this Section with Paragraph 1.<sup>1</sup> and the rewording of Paragraph two, Clause 2 and amendments to Section 41, Paragraph one in relation to the replacement of the words "in the respective State education standard" with the words "in the State basic education standard" and the supplementation of Section with Paragraphs 1.<sup>1</sup> and 1.<sup>2</sup> shall come into force:

1) on 1 September 2019 – in relation to the implementation of pre-school education programmes and the implementation of basic education programmes in grades 1–7;

2) on 1 September 2020 – in relation to the implementation of basic education programmes in grade 8 and the implementation of secondary education programmes in grades 10 and 11;

3) on 1 September 2021 – in relation to the implementation of basic education programmes in grade 9 and the implementation of secondary education programmes in grade 12.

[22 March 2018 / *The abovementioned amendments shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2019, 1 September 2020, and 1 September 2021*]

67. Amendments to Paragraph 9, Sub-paragraph 3 of the Transitional Provisions of this Law in relation to the deletion of the second sentence shall come into force:

1) on 1 September 2020 – in relation to the implementation of secondary education programmes in grades 10 and 11;

2) on 1 September 2021 – in relation to the implementation of secondary education programmes in grade 12.

[22 March 2018 / *The abovementioned amendment shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2020 and 1 September 2021*]

68. The Cabinet shall, by 30 April 2018, make amendments to Cabinet Regulation No. 533 of 31 July 2012, Regulations Regarding the State Guidelines for Pre-school Education, and Cabinet Regulation No. 468 of 12 August 2014, Regulations Regarding the State Standard in Basic Education, the Subject Standards in Basic Education and Model Basic Education Programmes,

in accordance with amendments to Section 9, Paragraph two, Clause 2 and Section 41, Paragraphs 1.<sup>1</sup> and 1.<sup>2</sup> of this Law.

[22 March 2018]

69. The Cabinet shall, by 30 April 2018, make amendments to Cabinet Regulation No. 211 of 27 June 2000, Regulations Regarding the State Vocational Secondary Education Standard and the State Industrial Education Standard, and Cabinet Regulation No. 281 of 21 May 2013, Regulations Regarding the State General Secondary Education Standard, Subject Standards and Sample Educational Programmes, in accordance with amendments to Section 9, Paragraph two, Clause 2 and Section 41, Paragraph one of this Law.

[22 March 2018]

70. Educational institutions shall ensure the conformity of educational programmes at the level of pre-school and basic education with the requirements of Section 9, Paragraphs one and 1.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two, Clause 2, and Section 41, Paragraphs 1.<sup>1</sup> and 1.<sup>2</sup> and submission for licensing by 30 April 2019.

[22 March 2018]

71. Educational institutions shall ensure the conformity of educational programmes of the level of secondary education to the requirements of Section 9, Paragraphs one and 1.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two, Clause 2, and Section 41, Paragraph one and their submission for licensing by 30 April 2020.

[22 March 2018]

72. The Ministry of Education and Science shall, not later than within three years after implementation of the relevant education reform, ensure substantiated and independent evaluation of the reform based on scientific research to determine its impact on the quality of achievements in education.

[22 March 2018]

73. Section 52, Paragraph one, Clause 7 of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2019, and the benefit referred to in this Clause may be disbursed to a teacher also before 1 September 2019 within the scope of the financial resources available for such purpose.

[22 March 2018]

74. Amendments which provide for the deletion of Section 1, Clause 14 of this Law shall come into force:

1) on 1 September 2020 – in relation to the implementation of secondary education programmes in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10;

2) on 1 September 2021 – in relation to the implementation of secondary education programmes in grades 2, 5, 8, and 11;

3) on 1 September 2022 – in relation to the implementation of secondary education programmes in grades 3, 6, 9, and 12.

[20 September 2018 / The abovementioned amendment shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2020, 1 September 2021, and 1 September 2022]

75. The Cabinet shall issue the regulations referred to in Section 14, Clause 43 of this Law by 31 December 2018.

[20 September 2018]

76. General education institutions which on the day of coming into force of the Cabinet regulations referred to in Section 14, Clause 43 of this Law are implementing general education programmes in the form of extramural studies or distance learning shall, by 31 July 2020, ensure the conformity of the procedures for the implementation of such educational programmes with the abovementioned regulations.

[20 September 2018]

77. Amendments to Section 17, Paragraph three, Clauses 7 and 10, as well as Section 59, Paragraph three of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2020.

*[20 September 2018 / The abovementioned amendments shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2020]*

78. Amendments to Section 14, Clause 24 of this Law which provide that the Cabinet shall determine the procedures for the financing of interest-related education institutions of national significance, as well as Section 14, Clause 24.<sup>1</sup>, Section 19.<sup>1</sup>, and Section 60, Paragraph ten of this Law shall come into force on 1 September 2021.

*[20 September 2018; 3 April 2019; 14 November 2019 / The abovementioned amendments shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2021]*

79. Amendments to Section 17 of this Law in relation to the supplementation of Section with Paragraph 2.<sup>5</sup> shall come into force on 1 September 2021. The Cabinet shall issue the regulations referred to in Section 17, Paragraph 2.<sup>5</sup> of this Law by 31 May 2021.

*[20 September 2018; 3 April 2019; 14 November 2019 / The abovementioned amendment shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2021]*

80. The Cabinet shall develop and, by 31 December 2018, submit amendments to the Vocational Education Law to the *Saeima* for its alignment with the amendments made to Section 23, Paragraph five of this Law in relation to the informing of authorities and persons not later than three months in advance, and the amendments made to Section 24, Paragraph four, Section 25, Paragraph two, Section 36, Paragraph one, Section 39, Paragraph one, Section 44, Paragraph two, and Section 47.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two of this Law according to which the registration certificate of an educational institution and a licence for the implementation of an educational programme need not be issued.

*[20 September 2018]*

81. The Cabinet shall, by 31 December 2018, develop and submit amendments to the Law on Higher Education Institutions to the *Saeima* for its alignment with the amendments made to Section 24, Paragraph four, Section 25, Paragraph two, Section 36, Paragraph one, Section 39, Paragraph one, Section 44, Paragraph two, and Section 45, Paragraph two of this Law according to which the registration certificate of an educational institution and a licence for the implementation of an educational programme need not be issued.

*[20 September 2018]*

82. Amendments to the first sentence of Section 60, Paragraph 3.<sup>2</sup> of this Law regarding the substitution of the words “the number of educatees in the relevant grade or group of grades does not conform to the minimum admissible number of educatees stipulated by the Cabinet” with the words “the educational institution does not meet the quality criteria stipulated by the Cabinet” and to the second sentence regarding the deletion of the words “including the quality indicators of the education acquired at the educational institution” shall come into force on 1 September 2020.

*[20 September 2018 / The abovementioned amendments shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 September 2020]*

83. Section 11.<sup>2</sup> of this Law shall come into force on 1 June 2020.

*[21 March 2019 / The abovementioned amendment shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 June 2020]*

84. The Cabinet shall, by 31 May 2019, issue the regulations referred to in Section 35.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph six of this Law in relation to State examinations in general education programmes and State examinations in general education subjects in vocational education programmes, and by 31 May 2021 – the regulations referred to in Section 35.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph six of this Law in relation to State examinations for the acquisition of professional qualification and for examinations of the proficiency in the official language.

*[21 March 2019]*

85. Entry of the information referred to in Section 35.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two of this Law in relation to State examinations for the acquisition of professional qualification in the State Examination Information System shall be started from 1 September 2021.

[21 March 2019]

86. Entry of the information referred to in Section 35.<sup>1</sup>, Paragraph two of this Law in relation to examinations of the proficiency in the official language in the State Examination Information System shall be started from 1 September 2021, and such information shall refer to those examinations of the proficiency in the official language which have been taken from 1 January 1991.

[21 March 2019]

87. Amendments regarding the deletion of Section 20, Paragraph four, Clause 6 of this Law and Chapter VIII of this Law shall come into force concurrently with the Law on Administrative Liability.

[30 May 2019/ *The abovementioned amendments shall be included in the wording of the Law as of 1 July 2020*]

### **Informative Reference to European Union Directives**

[4 March 2010]

This Law contains legal norms arising from:

1) Council Directive of 25 July 1977 on the education of the children of migrant workers (77/486/EEC);

2) Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin;

3) Directive 2002/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 amending Council Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions. Text with EEA relevance;

4) Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers;

5) Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted;

6) Council Directive 2004/114/EC of 13 December 2004 on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service;

7) Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast);

8) Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals.

This Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 29 October 1998.

President

G. Ulmanis

Riga, 17 November 1998



**Report on the Initial Impact Assessment  
of the Draft Law “Amendments to the Education Law”  
(annotation)**

<b>I. Necessity of Drafting a Legislative Act</b>	
1. Justification	<p>The draft law “Amendments to the Education Law” (hereinafter – the Draft Law) is elaborated on the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science (hereinafter – the Ministry) in order to ensure the execution of the task set forth in Protocol No 60, Para. 35.2 of the sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers held on 5 December 2017 and implementation of the principles of the use of the official language in the general education described in the information report “On the transition to the learning in the official language in general education institutions” (TA-2509).</p> <p>The provisions contained in the Draft Law correspond to the strategic objective “Belonging to Latvia: Cooperation and Culture” provided for in the hierarchically highest mid-term development planning document at the national level, namely, “National Development Plan of Latvia for 2014–2020” (approved by the <i>Saeima</i> on 20 December 2012) (hereinafter – NAP2020). NAP2020 states: “Latvia is the only country in the world where the Latvian nation, language and culture can exist and fully develop, and there is a broad community of people outside of Latvia with a sense of belonging to Latvia, together forming a global network. Language and culture are at the same time the foundations that unite the Latvian society. Therefore, society and the state seek to foster the Latvian language and promote the values of national identity, the role of civil society and social integration in the long term”.</p> <p>NAP2020 also sets goals and objectives related to the official language policy. NAP2020 emphasizes the need to increase the use of the Latvian language in society by strengthening the position of the Latvian language in everyday communication. NAP2020 stresses the need to expand the possibilities of society integration by developing interesting forms of learning Latvian. The establishment of a modern, coordinated system for learning of the Latvian language for children and adults, which facilitates the use of the Latvian language in society, is also a priority.</p> <p>The Draft Law is also designed to provide the legal basis for the implementation of the content of learning and integrated approach to the learning of a foreign language in general education institutions.</p>
2. The current situation and problems, for solving which the draft legislative act is designed; the purpose and essence of the legal framework	<p>Data of the sociolinguistic study “The Language Situation in Latvia: 2010-2015” (Latvian Language Agency, 2016) show that 39% of minority youth in Latvia speak the Latvian language perfectly, the same number of young people know the Latvian language well; however, 22% admit that they have mastered the Latvian language at the level of basic skills or know it poorly. The study data also show that the majority of the population of Latvia (about 70%) believes that the learning of subjects in Latvian should begin as soon as possible – in kindergarten and primary school. Every year the number of</p>

graduates of minority educational programmes who choose to take the State examinations in Latvian increases. In the school year 2013/2014, 76% of minority students made such a choice, while in the school year 2016/2017, such a choice was already made by 92%.

In the Ombudsman's study "Bilingual Education" (Ombudsman, 2014) it is indicated that:

1. The educational system must ensure that the best interests of children are respected both normatively and in fact.
2. Minority children have to be guaranteed the right to learn the official language at an appropriate level. In the situation of Latvia, due to historical consequences, it is especially important to provide minority children with equal rights in further studying and working in Latvia in positions where the requirement of the official language is objectively necessary to ensure the interests of society.
3. The educational process should not be a threat to the identity of minorities; it should give the opportunity to learn the literature, culture, and language of minorities properly, so that ethnic minorities consider the learning of the official language not as a threat to their own identity but as a benefit, value, extension of their outlook.
4. All minorities must have equal rights to learn the language of their ethnicity, with particular attention being paid to the historically marginalised minority – the Roma.
5. National monitoring of minority educational institutions shall be increased in the following areas:
  - a) learning of minority languages and culture, use of the official language, and quality of the educational process;
  - b) employment of teachers who meet the requirements laid down in regulatory enactments.
6. Training for minority teachers should be provided to improve the use of the Latvian language, use of the minority language, and application of the bilingual methodology.
7. The education system for representatives of different ethnicities should primarily be aimed at unification, not separation.
8. A methodology should be developed to determine whether the official language and minority languages are used in the bilingual lesson proportionally.
9. Proportionality between the learning and preservation of the official language and the learning of the minority language must be ensured.

When characterizing the overall situation, it shall be taken into consideration that the model of the bilingual education system, which was introduced in 2004 and provided for the transition to a learning process partly in the Latvian language in minority general education programmes, was planned as a transitional period, since State-funded vocational education and higher education are currently implemented only in the official language. Already from the school year 2006/2007, the materials of the State examinations in general secondary education are being drawn up in Latvian. In the State examinations in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and in the centralized examinations the learners who have studied in the minority educational programmes may use a minority language in their responses, however, in the school year 2016/2017, only 7.75% of learners took this opportunity. Such indicators,

together with the results of the official language monitoring, indicate that a body of prerequisites have set in for completing the transition to the creation of a unified education system in Latvia.

On 8 August 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted amendments to Regulations No 335 "Regulations regarding the content and procedure of the centralized examinations" adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 6 April 2010 and amendments to Regulations No 1510 "Procedures for the conduct of the State examinations" adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 17 December 2013; both Regulations provided for taking State examinations and centralized examinations in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the official language. According to these amendments to the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, from the school year 2019/2020, the State examinations of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade will take place only in the official language, while centralized examinations in the general secondary education will take place only in the official language from the school year 2017/2018, but other State examinations – from the school year 2018/2019.

In general education, the Ministry has initiated fundamental change in educational approach in Latvia in order to review the content of learning and the way of teaching in which educators collaboratively organize and manage students' learning on a daily basis for the first time in a single system and successively at all stages of education. At the level of the general education, the young people prepare for further education at university and/or vocational activities, start to understand their own personal abilities and interests for targeted shaping of their professional and personal future, continues to get a learning and growth experience to establish a responsible and respectful attitude towards themselves, family, society, and the State. The new content of learning and approach should strengthen pupils' language skills to ensure that young people have acquired the necessary skills to continue their education. The transition to learning in the official language at the stage of general secondary education in general education institutions will contribute to the successful implementation of the new general education content and learning approach. The Ministry's proposals for the transition to teaching in the official language in general secondary education will allow quality implementation of the new approach to the content of learning and learning process and providing the preservation of minority language and culture in accordance with the international obligations of Latvia.

The Draft Law includes amendments to the Education Law, which establishes the legal basis for the transition to obtaining the general secondary education only in the official language as well as defines more precisely a number of legal provisions that are necessary for the establishment of the legal framework for the use of the learning language in the general education.

1. The law is supplemented by Paragraph 1<sup>1</sup> of Section 9, "Language of Acquisition of Education", which determines that in private educational institutions, general education and

vocational education at the level of primary and secondary education are obtained in the official language.

2. Para two of Section 9, "Language of Acquisition of Education", regarding the rights of the learners to acquire education in another language is concretized; and Clauses 1 and 2 of this Paragraph have a new wording, which provides for the following: education can be acquired in another language in private educational institutions in Latvia that operate in accordance with the international treaties, and in the State, local government, and private educational institutions, which implement minority education programmes at the level of preschool and primary education. The Draft Law, compared to the current regulatory framework, more clearly defines the cases, where the education may be acquired in another language, taking into account that on the whole, private general education institutions in Latvia implement their educational programmes in accordance with the requirements laid down in the National General Education Standard; thus, also in relation to the use of the language of instruction in the educational process, they must meet the requirements of the National General Education Standard.

The Section 9, paragraph two of the Law is supplemented with a new Clause 2<sup>1</sup> which provides for the following: to implement the approach of integrated acquisition of the content of learning and foreign language in general education institutions, the education can be obtained in any of the official languages of the Members States of the European Union in accordance with the terms and conditions of the relevant national general education standard.

Taking into account that, in the context of the learning process plan in the secondary school and the objective of the general secondary education to prepare youth for successful studies in the university, it is intended not to continue the implementation of minority education programmes on the stage of secondary school; respectively, Section 41(1) of the Law is specified and supplemented with Paragraphs 1<sup>1</sup> and 1<sup>2</sup>, which provide for the regulation of the language of instruction in the primary education on the stage of grades 1–9 by determining that on the stage of grades 1–6, the acquisition of the content of learning in minority education programmes in the official language is ensured at the amount that is not less than 50 percent of the total lesson load per school year, including foreign languages, and in the stage of grades 7–9 is ensured in amount that is not less than 80 percent of the total lesson load per school year, including foreign languages. As regards foreign languages, it is therefore established that the official language shall be used as an intermediate language for the acquisition of a foreign language. At the same time it is planned that Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on the National Primary Education Standard will establish three sample educational programmes for the implementation of minority education programmes on the stage of grades 1-6; the samples, in compliance with the provisions of the Law, will offer three different modules of the proportion of use of the official language and minority languages, and, it is intended that the educational institution will have the opportunity to select one of the offered samples.

Section 59(1) of the Law provides for the percentage of the total number of learners in minority education programmes from students whose educators may additionally be granted a subsidy earmarked in the State budget to finance the remuneration of their work, taking into account that after the entry into force of the Law only minority education programmes for students of primary education stage can be included in this calculation.

Clause 3 of Paragraph 9 of the Transitional Provisions of the Law is amended by deleting the second sentence of this Paragraph since the substantive legal provisions corresponding to its content are included in the amendments to Section 9 and Section 41 of the Law provided for in the Draft Law; thus, the body text of the Law will contain provisions on making changes to the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers regarding the National General Education Standard, which specified that the general secondary education curriculum shall be implemented only in the official language.

The transitional provisions of the Law are supplemented by Paragraphs 66–71 establishing the transitional period in which the application of the new version of Section 9 of the Law is started in certain groups of grades and determining the implementation of the transition to the learning in the official language in secondary school and termination of the application of the legal framework laid down in Clause 3 of Paragraph 9 of the Transitional Provisions of the Law.

In respect to the stage of secondary school it is planned that the transition to the learning in the official language is started in the school year 2020/2021, when the learning in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade is commenced by the learners, who, at the end of the school year 2019/2020, have taken all final examinations of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade only in the official language according to the amendments of 8 August 2017 to Regulations No 335 “Regulations regarding the content and procedure of the centralized examinations” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 6 April 2010 and Regulations No 1510 “Procedures for the conduct of the State examinations” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 17 December 2013. In the same school year, also the students of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade have to learn only in the official language because according to the plan on implementation of competence-based general education content, this principle is started to be implemented in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and learners choose a smaller number of subjects for in-depth learning in order to purposefully prepare for commencement the studies in the university and to be ready for taking the secondary school centralized examination only in the official language at an appropriate level. In the next school year (2021/2022), these learners will be in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and, for the first time, will pass the 12<sup>th</sup> grade final examinations according to the selected level of the subject mastering at the optimal or higher level. To provide support to educational institutions in the planning of the educational process for learners, who in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade of secondary school in minority general secondary education programmes will start the learning only in the Latvian language in the school



		year 2019/2020 and will finish the learning in the school year 2021/2022, it is planned to enclose to the National General Secondary Education Standard a separate sample educational program for the transitional period.
3.	Institutions involved in the project development	The Ministry.
4.	Other information	<p>In order to successfully implement the amendments provided for in the Draft Law and implement the changes to the approach to the content of learning and the use of the learning language in the general education, the Ministry intends to implement a set of support measures for the educators, who will ensure the implementation of these changes. Such a change requires that those creating the learning process in general education – the educators of the general education institutions, support staff, and administration of the educational institution – take on the role of the language medium and creator of environment appropriate for quality learning of the official language. Language skills depend also on the intensity of the language use at the relevant level of skills; thus, based on the information provided by the educators, learners, parents, and education administration institutions, it is planned to improve the skills of use of the Latvian language of the general education educators, support staff and administration so that they, when implementing the learning process, would be able to fully take the role of the language medium, participate in the implementation of the learning process and provide the required support to the learners in the achievement of their objectives.</p> <p>Methodological support and availability of appropriate teaching aids are equally important in implementing the change. Teaching aids for the introduction of the new general education content are intended to be prepared in the scope of the project No 8.3.1.1/16/002 “Competency-Based Approach to the Content of Learning” of Activity 8.3.1.1 “Approval and Implementation of Competency-Based General Education Curriculum” of Specific Objective 8.3.1 “To Develop Competency-Based General Education Curriculum” of the structural funds of the European Union, which is implemented by the National Centre for Education.</p> <p>Having regard to the Draft Law, the Ministry, in collaboration with the National Centre for Education and the Latvian Language Agency, has assessed that the amount of teaching and methodological aids and measures for the professional development of educators initially planned in the project might not be sufficient for implementation of all changes in the general education. Therefore, the Ministry has drawn up and is forwarding for consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers a proposal for amendments to Activity 8.3.1.1 “Approval and Implementation of Competency-Based General Education Curriculum” of the EU structural funds providing for additional funding in amount of 4,497,498 euro to the project No 8.3.1.1/16/002 “Competency-Based Approach to the Content of Learning” effectuated by the National Centre for Education in order to, in the period from the year 2018 to the year 2023, implement additional measures for the preparation of educators for work with the new educational content and support measures for educators working in a linguistically</p>

	<p>heterogeneous learning environment described in the informative report, “On the transition to learning in the official language in general educational institutions”, drawn up by the Ministry (Protocol Decision No 60, Para 35, adopted by the sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers on 5 December 2017). It is planned that additional support to the improvement of educators' professional competence will be provided to 6,900 educators (including about 4,500 educators who work in a linguistically heterogeneous environment), as well as for the development and availability of methodological and teaching aids, in particular, for the preschool, where it is important to provide not only the presence of teaching aids but also their availability and frequency of use in the educational process.</p> <p>With regard to other stages of general education, the transition to a competence-based general education requires that textbooks already developed and other teaching aids can be used in the learning process, but methodological guidance for practical application of these teaching aids will be changed; and the National Centre for Education will develop this methodological guidance under the ESF Project 8.3.1.1/16/002 “Competency-Based Approach to the Content of Learning” as well as provide professional development measures for the educators to implement this methodological guidance in practice.</p>
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<b>II. Impact of the Draft Legislative Act on Society, Economic Development and Administrative Burden</b>		
1.	Target groups of the society that are or might be affected by the legal framework	The norms included in the Draft Law directly relate to general education learners and educators.
2.	Impact of the regulatory framework on the economy and administrative burden	Changes in general education provided for in the Draft Law have a positive impact on the economy, as transition to a competence-based general education will ensure the acquisition of modern economic skills in general education.
3.	Monetary assessment of administrative costs	The project does not affect this area.
4.	Other information	No.

<b>III. Impact of the Draft Legislative Act on the State Budget and Budgets of Local Governments</b>					
Indicators	2018		Subsequent three years (euro)		
	according to the State budget for the current year	changes in the current year compared to the State budget for the current year	2019	2020	2021
			changes compared to 2018	changes compared to 2018	changes compared to 2018

1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Budget revenue:	0	0	0	0	0
1.1. State basic budget	0	0	0	0	0
1.2. State special budget	0	0	0	0	0
1.3. Local government budget	0	0	0	0	0
2. Budget expenditure:	0	0	0	0	0
2.1. State basic budget	0	0	0	0	0
2.2. State special budget	0	0	0	0	0
2.3. Local government budget	0	0	0	0	0
3. Financial impact:	0	0	0	0	0
3.1. State basic budget	0	0	0	0	0
3.2. State special budget	0	0	0	0	0
3.3. Local government budget	0	0	0	0	0
4. Financial resources to fund expenditure (reduction in compensatory expenditure shall be indicated using "+")	X	0	0	0	0
5. Concretized financial impact:	X	0	0	0	0
5.1. State basic budget		0	0	0	0
5.2. Special budget		0	0	0	0
5.3. Local government budget		0	0	0	0
6. Detailed calculation of revenue and expenditure (if necessary, a detailed calculation of revenue and expenditure can be added to the annex to the annotation):	The Draft Law does not affect this area.				
7. Other information	No				

#### IV. Impact of the Draft Legislative Act on the Existing Legal Framework

1.	The required related draft legislative acts	After the adoption of the Law, the Cabinet of Ministers must issue regulations on:
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		<p>1) amendments to Regulation No 533 “Regulations regarding the State preschool education guidelines” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 31 July 2012 and to Regulation No 468 “Regulations regarding the National Primary Education Standard, the standards on subjects in primary education and sample primary education programmes” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 12 August 2014 in compliance with amendments to Section 9(2)2) of the Law and Sections 41(1)<sup>1</sup> and 41(1)<sup>2</sup> of the Law.</p> <p>2) amendments to Regulation No 211 “Regulations regarding the National Vocational Secondary Education Standard and National Industrial Education Standard” adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 27 June 2000 and to Regulation No 281 “Regulations regarding the National General Secondary Education Standard, the subject standards and sample educational programmes” in compliance with amendments to Section 9(2)2), Section 41(1) and Clause 3 of Paragraph 9 of the Transitional Provisions of the Law.</p>
2.	Responsible body	The Ministry.
3.	Other information	No.

<b>V. Compliance of the Draft Legislative Act with International Obligations of the Republic of Latvia</b>		
Table 2 Obligations fulfilled or undertaken by the draft legislative act arising from international law or documents of an international body or organisation. Measures to meet these obligations		
Date, number and name of the relevant international legal act or document of and international body or organisation (hereinafter – the International Document)		
A	B	C
The Draft Law does not affect this area.		
Whether the obligations provided for in the international document do not contradict the existing international obligations of the Republic of Latvia	The Draft Law does not affect this area.	
Other information	<p>In Latvia, education is provided on the basis of rules laid down in the Constitution (<i>Satversme</i>) and the Education Law, which, in turn, comply with the international obligations of Latvia in relation to human rights, equality and rights of national minorities (incl. education).</p> <p>According to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), everyone has the right to education; this right shall be directed at the full development of the human personality and at the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the right of the child to education is recognized, and the right, in community with other members</p>	

of child's group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language is not denied to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities.

According to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the European Council (1995), the Parties to the Convention shall take measures in the fields of education to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority as well as promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities. In turn, according to the UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education (1960), it is ensured that the standards of education are equivalent in all public educational institutions of the same level, as well as members of national minorities have the right to carry on their own educational activities while not interfering with the understanding of the culture and language of the entire community. According to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000), everyone has the right to education and to have access to vocational and continuing training. In addition, any discrimination based on any ground such as race, ethnic or social origin, language, etc. shall be prohibited.

Considering that Latvia has joined the countries implementing the principles laid down in these documents, access to education is ensured for everyone, without any discrimination. Implementation of general education programmes in the official language in the stage of secondary education will not change this situation by giving the representatives of national minorities the opportunity to obtain a quality education that will contribute to their future success in the education process and inclusion in the labour market, at the same time preserving their mother tongue and culture, for instance, by choosing them as subjects in school or within the framework of out-of-school lessons.

## VI. Public Participation and Communication Activities

1.	Planned public participation and communication activities related to the project	The Draft Law, after its announcement at the State Secretaries' meeting, will be published on the Ministry's website; and, in the context of the informative report " <b>On the transition to the learning in the official language in general education institutions</b> ", the Ministry has prepared an <b>infographic about the essence of the planned changes for publication on the Ministry's website and social networking profiles.</b>
2.	Public participation in the project development	The proposals prepared by the Ministry for the transition to the learning in the Latvian language in secondary school were discussed in the Advisory Council on Minority Education on 10 November 2017.
3.	Results of public participation	The Advisory Council on Minority Education has provided conceptual support for the implementation of the planned changes.
4.	Other information	No.

<b>VII. Ensuring the Implementation of the Draft Legislative Act and Its Impact on Institutions</b>		
1.	Institutions involved in the project execution	The Ministry, founders of educational institutions, general and vocational educational institutions.
2.	Impact of the project execution on management functions and institutional structure. Establishment of new institutions, liquidation or reorganisation of existing institutions; impact on the human resources of the institution	The Draft Law does not directly provide for the establishment of new institutions and/or liquidation or reorganization of the existing institutions. The Draft Law has no impact on the human resources available to and management functions of the existing institutions.
3.	Other information	No.

Minister of Education and Science

Kārlis Šadurskis