

9. EDUCATION

■ Facts and Figures

Education is the largest public service sector within the PA: **educational services** in the WBGS are provided by the public (PA), UNRWA, private and NGO sectors, with the latter two dominating the pre-school and tertiary levels while the others focus on basic and secondary education. Many schools are overcrowded, with some 25% operating on more than one shift.

The Palestinian **school system** is a two-stream system (literary and scientific) that consists of primary and secondary grades. After the ninth school year, students must choose a stream along which to complete the required 12 years of schooling, which end with the *Tawjihi* (matriculation) exam; passing is a condition for university or college enrollment.

The Palestinian **Ministry of Education** was established in 1994 and the first ever Palestinian national **curriculum** introduced into schools in Sept. 2000 (replacing the Jordanian and Egyptian curricula that were used since the occupation in 1967).

At a Glance:

Total Number of Schools	2,276	(WB: 1,715, GS: 561)
Total Number of Teachers	48,674	
Students enrolled (WBGS)	1,078,488	(WB: 637,613, GS: 440,875)
of which: - elementary	953,621	
- secondary	124,867	
Projected no. of students 2009/10	1,441,455	(male: 733,108, female: 708,347)
Classes	31,001	(WB: 20,390, GS: 10,611)
Literacy rate (2004)	92.3%	(male: 96.5%, female: 88%)
Repetition rate (2003/04):	1.4%	(males: 1.5%, females: 1.2%)
Drop-out rate (2003/04):	0.9%	(males: 1.0%, females: 0.9%)

(Sources: Ministry of Education, *Statistics about Palestinian General Education*, 2005/06; PCBS, *Palestinian Children - Rights and Numbers*, 2005.)

Basic & Secondary Education: Teachers, Schools & Students by Supervising Authority, 2005/2006

		Total
Private	Teachers	5,184
	Classes	2,753
	Schools	272
	Students	66,321
UNRWA	Teachers	8,477
	Classes	6,124
	Schools	279
	Students	254,552
Government	Teachers	35,013
	Classes	22,082
	Schools	1,725
	Students	757,615
Total	Teachers	48,674 (m: 22,700; f: 25,974)
	Classes	31,001
	Schools	2,276 (m: 802, f: 786, co-ed: 688)
	Students	1,078,488 (m: 536,752, f: 541,736)

^a incl. Waqf and private schools in Jerusalem. (Source: Ministry of Education)

Distribution of Students per Class / Teacher by Supervising Authority

Average no. of students per:	UNWRA		Government		Private		Total	
	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher
	41.6	30.0	34.3	21.6	24.1	12.7	34.7	22.2

(Source: Ministry of Education, *Statistics about Palestinian General Education*, 2005/2006.)



■ Vocational Training

In the school year 2005/06, there were 5,999 **students** enrolled in 279 vocational training **classes**. These were distributed in 90 schools as follows:

	Industrial	Agricultural	Commercial	Hotel	Religious	Total
Schools	14 (11 gov., 3 priv.), (12 WB, 2 GS)	2 (2 gov.), (1 WB, 1 GS)	66 (66 gov.) (65 WB, 1 GS)	1 (1 priv.), (1 WB)	7 (5 gov., 2 priv.) (6 WB, 1 GS)	90 (84 gov., 6 priv.) (85 WB, 5 GS)

(Source: Ministry of Education, *Statistics about Palestinian General Education*, 2005/2006.)



During **Al-Aqsa Intifada**, Israeli forces have destroyed at least 269 schools through shelling, closed 9 schools and turned them into military posts, and have closed hundreds of other schools for various periods. (PCBS, *Palestinian Children - Rights and Numbers*, Ramallah, 2005.) According to the Ministry of Education, since the beginning of the Intifada **losses** due to shellings, closures, vandalism, etc. have exceeded US\$5.2 million in Palestinian schools and US\$4.85 million in universities.

■ Higher Education

University Colleges	13	
- Students enrolled (2004/05)	6,034	(male: 2,681, female: 3,353)
- Graduates (2003/04)	1,879	(male: 573, female: 1,306)
- Academic Teaching Staff (2004/05)	402	(male: 277, female: 125)
Community Colleges (up to diploma)	19	
- Students enrolled (2004/05)	9,002	(male: 5,070, female: 3,932)
- Graduates (2003/04)	1,727	(male: 781, female: 946)
- Academic Teaching Staff (2004/05)	459	(male: 376, female: 83)
Universities	11	(WB: 8; GS: 3)
- Students enrolled (2004/05)	123,103	(male: 58,798, female: 64,305)
- Graduates (2003/04)	12,967	(male: 5,866, female: 7,101)
- Academic Teaching Staff (2004/05)	3,731	(male: 1,964, female: 317)

- In 2004/5, most higher education students studied – in their **main program** - Social Sciences, Business and Law (43,139), followed by Education (42,897), Humanities & Arts (17,584), and Science (15,520).
- In 2004/5, 4,592 academic **teaching staff** was employed at Palestinian higher education institutions, incl. 697 women.
- Of **all students** (=138,139) enrolled in higher education institutions, some 52% (=71,590) were **female**; women also accounted for over 56% (=9,353) of **all graduates** in 2003/04 (=16,573).
- The vast majority – 12,192 of the 16,573 graduates - earned a BA degree in 2003/04.

(Source: Min. of Education and Higher Education, *General Education Statistics 2005/06* and *Higher Education Statistics 2004-05*)

Recommended Research Sources:

<http://www.pcbs.org/educatio/annuals.aspx> (Education Statistics) <http://www.moe.gov.ps/> (Min. of Education)
<http://right2edu.birzeit.edu/>

Diwan, Ishac & R. A. Shaban (eds.). *Development Under Adversity*. MAS and World Bank, 1999 (see chapter on Education).
Nasur, Fathiyeh. *Preliminary Vision of a Palestinian Education System*. BZU, Center for Research and Documentation, 1993.
Rigby, Andrew. *Palestinian Education: The Future Challenge*. Jerusalem: PASSIA, 1995.

