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### **Education in the USA and Russia**

The American education system consists of 3 basic components: elementary, secondary and higher education. There is also a preschool education. At the age of 4 or 5 children go to a nursery school. The preschool education program aims to prepare children for elementary school through playing and help them to acquire the experience of association. It lasts for a year. Then they go to the first grade. [1]

Compared to America, Russian 2-3-year-olds start pre-school education in nurseries and kindergartens and stay there until they are 6-7 depending on the region. Classes include drawing, modeling, songs and physical education as well as walks and games. Also children may sculpt, cut, draw, dance, learn poems, and make gifts [2].

The difference between Russian and American schools lies in the structure and the approach to the study process. In both countries, education is compulsory for everyone. In America, children study for 12 years: junior, secondary and senior schools. Junior school offers a unified program, whereas secondary school adds elective courses to the compulsory program. In senior school, a pupil makes independently more than 50% of the schedule planning his/her future education. Along with community schools, there are private schools, and making a comparison between state and private schools, it becomes obvious that the latter provide enhanced knowledge of many subjects.

In Russia, children study for 11 years. Russia has a nine-year compulsory education. Students start at six and finish at fifteen. This nine-year Russian education is called Basic Education and is taught in a Basic School. This is not the same in the United States. Russia's Basic School could be thought of as an Elementary School, a Junior High, and the lower level of High School combined into one school. After nine years of required education, students can go to Complete Secondary schools or professional or vocational schools. These schools are very similar to High School in the United States. Complete Secondary schooling lasts for two years and Professional schooling lasts four years after completion of Basic School. The grading system in Russia is a system of numbers ranging from a two to a five. A five is similar to an A in the United States. The grading system is as follows: five is excellent, four is good, three is satisfactory, and two is unsatisfactory.

Academic year in America lasts from September to July and is divided into three trimesters: Autumn trimester: from early September to mid-December. Spring trimester: from early January to mid or late March. Summer trimester: from early or mid-April to mid-July.

The academic year in Russia generally begins in September and ends in May. It is divided into 2 terms which include 2 half-terms.

In Russia, there is no school uniform. Although in the USSR, there was a standard school uniform. The boys had to wear dark blue trousers and a jacket. The girls wore a dark brown dress with an apron. For everyday wear, the apron was black, for the holiday — white. The addition to the dress was white cuffs and collars. In the US, a school uniform is required only in some schools.

Russian and American systems of higher education have many differences in educational process organization. In Russia, it is possible to study free of charge at university while in the US the education is paid. To enter a university, you should pass the Unified State Examination and score the required number of points or pass entrance exams.

Most students in the United States take the SAT Reasoning Test known as the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the ACT known as American College Testing during their final year of high school. Each university sets a minimum SAT or ACT score that a student must achieve in order to gain admission. These are standardized quantitative examinations. The SAT tests critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills. The ACT tests English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning,

and includes an optional writing test. The applicant also may be required to have a personal interview with a representative from the admissions office. [3]

Russia and the United States of America have several similarities when it comes to educational policies. Both countries' systems are based on the German system of education but there are some variations made by both countries. In the last 4-5 years, there was a push for educational reform in Russia. This reform includes diversification, humanization, decentralization of management and a non-public sector of education. The reform is pushing the Russian education system to be similar to that of the United States. This reform is still in progress.

Literature.

1. The website of Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russia Federation [Электронный ресурс] <https://studyinrussia.ru/en/actual>. [1]
2. Ziegler and Partner. Learning Russian in Moscow at the Famous Lomonosov - University. Moscow. 2003 [2]
3. Study in the US/US College and US Universities [Электронный ресурс], URL: [www.internationalstudentguidetotheusa.com](http://www.internationalstudentguidetotheusa.com) [3]