

# The Flemish education system

## 1 History

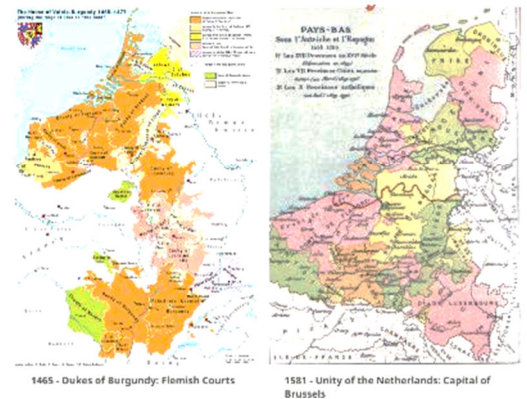
### From 1581: "the battlefield of Europe"

*From Spanish, to Austrian to French rule*

After Waterloo: united with the Netherlands  
BUT:

**The Netherlands: Dutch liberal & protestants**  
**Brussels & Belgian elite: French liberals & catholics**  
**Flanders: Flemish speaking catholics**

1830: the Belgian revolution  
a French liberal elite in Brussels started,  
Flemish & French catholics compromised.  
England, France and Prussia were happy to  
limit the power of the Netherlands...



## educational principles in Belgium

### Freedom of education

as a result of liberal-catholic compromise, a freedom of education was embedded in the constitution

Every natural or legal person:  
- has the right to organize education  
- establish institutions for its purpose

= parental freedom of choice

important: a freedom of religion & language  
this became a political battlefield for the next century (!)



## as a result of the freedom of education:

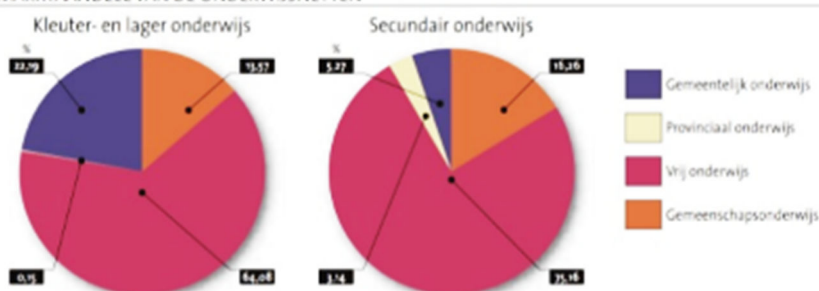
1. Education became competence of the 3 communities.



2. Every community had 3 educational networks

- GO! (governmental education)
- publicly funded & publicly run education
- publicly funded but privately run schools

MARKTAANDEEL VAN DE ONDERWIJSNETTEN



### 3 Learning outcomes

#### trust in the independence of the school & teacher

There are no central examinations in Flanders: the teachers, as a team, will decide independent whether or not a student qualifies for the learning outcomes.

The learning outcomes are provided by the Flemish government.

Every school network will translate those outcomes in a curriculum. But even within the curriculum, the teachers decide how to imply it.

A centralized team of inspectors will guard the learning outcomes by visiting schools and teachers.



### 4 Compulsory education

#### \* first law on compulsory education in 789 by Charlemagne

##### Start:

September 1 of the calendar year the child reaches the age of 6

##### End:

June 30 of the calendar year the child reaches the age of 18

Full-time compulsory education until 15

Again, the principle of freedom: compulsory education is not the same as compulsory school attendance!

e.g. homeschooling or private teaching is still possible!



## Primary education:

nursery education (2,5-6 years) without obligations

primary education (6-12 years)

Subject areas:

- reading & writing, Dutch language
- mathematics
- physical education
- global orientation (people and society + science and engineering/ technology)
- musical education
- French

Primary school: based on learning objectives: <https://zill.katholiekonderwijs.vlaanderen/#!/leerinhoud>



## Secondary education:

(12-18 years)

ASO - General Secondary Education:  
A very broad, general education, preparing for higher education.

TSO - Technical Secondary Education  
focus more on technical aspects and/or practical matters.

BSO - Very practical and very job-specific education. Afterwards, several directions offer specialisation years.

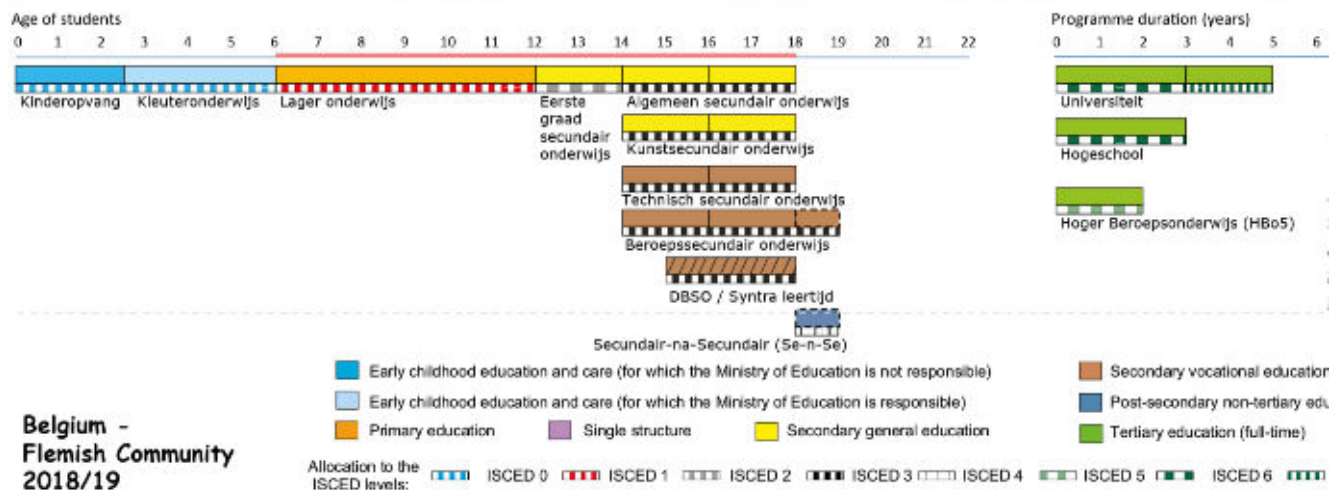
Art Secondary Education: These schools link general and broad secondary education development with active art practice

Special Secondary Education of different types for special needs.

Example curriculum secondary school: <https://www.collegemelle.be/secundair/studierichtingen>



# Schematic Structure



Belgium -  
Flemish Community  
2018/19

## 5 Curriculum

Example: second year of secondary education

geschiedenis	2
godsdienst	2
lichamelijke opvoeding	2
Engels	2
Frans	3
Nederlands	4
wiskunde	4
muziek	1
beeld	1
techniek	2
natuurwetenschappen	1
aardrijkskunde	1

### BASISOPTIE

### LAT

### MT&W

*Latijn*

*Moderne talen en wetenschappen*

wetenschappen	-	3
moderne talen	-	2
Latijn	5	-
LET Engels	1	1
Oriëntatie economie/ICT	1	1

Example: 5<sup>th</sup> year of secondary education:

Lessenrooster eerste jaar van de derde graad:

	EM	EW	LMT	LWE	LW	MWE	WEW
Godsdienst	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Aardrijkskunde	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
Biologie	-	1	-	1	1	1	1
Chemie	-	1	-	2	1	2	2
Duits	2	1	2	-	0/1°	2	1
Economie	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Engels	3	2	3	2	2	3	2
Esthetica	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Frans	4	3	4	3	3	4	3
Fysica	-	1	-	2	1	2	2
Geschiedenis	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Grieks	-	-	-	-	2*	-	-
Latijn	-	-	4	4	4	-	-
Lichamelijke Opvoeding	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nederlands	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Seminaries	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Spaans	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wetenschappen	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Wiskunde	3	6	3	4	7/6°	4	7
Totaal	32	32	32	32	32*	32	32