

**The Bahamas High Commission
London**

FACT SHEET # 6



THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

EDUCATION

Education in the Bahamas comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Youth Sports and Culture.

There are 247 schools in The Bahamas. Of these, 159 (64%) are fully maintained by the government and 88 (36%) are independent. In New Providence, 58 are government-owned and 58 independent. In the Out-Islands, 109 are government-owned and 30 independent.

Schools in The Bahamas are categorised as follows:

Preschool	ages 3-5
Primary	ages 5-11
Secondary	ages 11-17
Special education	all ages

(for exceptional students or those with severe learning disabilities)

Free education is available in government schools throughout The Bahamas. Students must attend school until age 16.

The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate, introduced The Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) in 1993. Twenty-six subjects covering academic, technical and vocational areas are offered. Grades are on a seven-point scale, A-G. It is based on the UK General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and is targeted to a wider range of abilities than the former GCE O levels. The Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) is taken by grade 9 students in 10 subjects. Grades are on a seven-point scale, A-G. A diagnostic test, the Grade Level Assessment Test (GLAT), is administered to grades 3 and 6. It is used to identify weaknesses and strengths in language arts and mathematics programmes in schools. Social studies and science are added at grade 6. The grade 6 test is also used as a placement examination for pupils entering grade 7 in government high schools.

Independent schools provide primary and secondary education. The term “college” connotes a fee-paying school rather than a university.

Several private schools of continuing education offer secretarial and academic courses. The government-operated Princess Margaret Hospital offers a nursing course through the School of Nursing, at The College of The Bahamas’ Oakes Field Campus.

There has been a marked increase in private institutions offering tertiary level education and degrees. Every school must be registered with the Ministry of Education, although prospective students should check each one to determine accreditation.

In addition, some US schools offer degree programmes in The Bahamas. Examples are Univ of Miami, Kent State Univ, Sojourner-Douglass College and Nova Southeastern University. Classes are usually offered on weekends and at night.

Literacy

The 2003 United Nations Human Development Index reported that data collected in 2001 showed a 95.5% adult (15 and up) and 97.3% youth (15-24) literacy rate in The Bahamas. This is premised on the percentage of people who can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement related to their everyday life. The National Literacy Services was established in 1999 and has expanded to include family literacy and adult literacy. To become a National Literacy Services volunteer, or to register as an adult student, contact Ministry of Education, tel 356-7643, fax 356-7644.

NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOLS

A selection of schools in New Providence follows. For a complete list, including the Out Islands, contact the Ministry of Education, P O Box N-3913, Nassau, tel (242) 322-8140, fax (242) 322-8491 or e-mail info@bahamaseducation.com

Preschools and kindergarten

Infant Education Centre Ltd: East Ct, Centreville. For children 2-5 yrs, \$160 per month. After-school care until 6pm extra. Tel 325-8567, e-mail gwallace03@hotmail.com.

Munro School: Williams Ct off William St. For children 2-6yrs. Four terms, \$695 per term. 8:30am-1pm. Afternoon care available. Nursery and kindergarten classes, including grade 1 preparation, specializing in art. Ministry of Education approved curriculum. Qualified teachers. Sylvia Munro, PO Box N134, tel 393-2957, fax 393-1847.

Strawberry Patch Pre-School: West Bay St, opp Saunders each. For children walking – 5 yrs. Three terms, \$800 per term. 8am-4pm. After-school care until 6pm (extra). PO Box N-10576, tel 322-5074, e-mail gwallace03@hotmail.com.

Private primary schools

Xavier’s Lower School: West Bay Street. Roman Catholic. Kindergarten (4 1/2 yrs)-grade 6. Three terms, \$2,885 per year, does not include work books and special fees. Approx 400 pupils, 26 lay teachers, two teacher’s aides, one priest, one nurse and one

guidance counsellor. Headmistress, Denise Louis, PO Box N-7076, tel 322-3077, fax 325-1571, e-mail xavierlowerschool@yahoo.com.

Private primary-secondary schools

Christian Heritage School: Dean's Ln at Fort Charlotte. Kindergarten – grade 9. Three terms \$850-\$890 per term. Books and supplies not included. Curriculum includes computer studies and Spanish. Approx 160 pupils. Principal/administrator, Carol Harrison, PO Box N-3939, tel 322-4271/4, fax 322-4273.

Jordan-Prince Williams Baptist School: Cowpen Rd. Baptist For students 4-18 yrs. Three terms: primary section \$725 per term; secondary section \$825 per term. Incidentals: uniforms and textbooks. Secondary section students may take BJC, BGCSE and Pitman exams. Commercial subjects and computer courses also offered. Approx 1,200 pupils, 70 teachers. Principal, Eugene Bonamy, P O Box GT-2198, tel 361-4847/9, fax 361-1193, e-mail jprincew@gmail.com.

Kingsway Academy: Bernard Rd. Inter-denominational, Christian school. Kindergarten – grade 12. Three terms: elementary \$700-\$1,282 per term; high school 41,035 per term; \$86-\$239 book fee for kindergarten – grade 6; grades 7-12 purchase books locally. Curriculum for all grades includes information technology, Spanish and music. High school grades offer carpentry & joinery, graphical communication and home economics, along with academic subjects. Students take BJC, BGCSE, PSAT, SAT, GLAT, AP and Stanford Achievement exams. Approx 1,050 principal, George Baxter, tel 324-8811, fax 364-4647; elementary school principal, Cassandra Smith, tel 324-2158, fax 364-6249; academy affairs manager, Kelcine Hamilton, tel 324-6269, fax 393-6917; P O Box N-4378, e-mail khamilton@kingswayacademy.com or visit www.kingswayacademy.com.

Lyford Cay International School: Lyford Cay. International school for students 3-18 yrs. Accredited by the Council of Intl Schools and the New England Assoc of Schools and Colleges. Three terms. Early learning centre (nursery and kindergarten), \$11,730 per year; elementary school (grades 1-6), \$14,220 per year; middle school (grades 7-10), \$15,740 per year; high school (grades 11-12), \$17,855 per year. The school implements and is approved to run the middle years and diploma programmes of the International Baccalaureate and is implementing the primary years programme of the International Baccalaureate. Application and testing fee of \$250. No-refundable development fund fee \$1,250 per student for Bahamian families, or \$3,500 per student for non-Bahamian families (max \$10,500 per family). Admissions Officer, P O Box N-7776, tel 362-4774 or 362-4269 ext 245, fax 362-5198, e-mail rtaylor@lyfordcayschool.net, or visit www.Icis.bs.

Nassau Christian Schools:

Old Trail and Soldier Rds. Principal, Brentford Isaacs; administrator, Dr. Howard Mills, Baptist International Missions Inc, P O N-3923, tel 393-2641 or 393-2305, fax 394-6478.

Wee Wisdom: for children 2 1/2-5 yrs. Three terms. K2 (2-3yrs) \$485 per term, \$1,350 per year; K3-5 (3-5 yrs) \$575 per term \$1,650 per year. 9am-2:30pm.

Nassau Christian Academy: Three terms, grades 1-6 \$725 per term; grades 7-9 \$775; grades 10-12 \$800 per term. Books additional, computer fee. Students take BJC, BGCSE, Pitman and SAT exams. Approx 1,340 pupils, 65 teachers.

Queen's College:

Village Rd. Methodist. For students 3½-5 ½ yrs (early learning centre), 5 ½ - 11 ½ yrs (primary school) and 11 ½-17 ½ yrs (high school). Three terms: early learning centre, \$1,185; primary school, \$1,255; high school, \$1,410. Incidental fees include technology fees (grades 1-12), locker fees (grades 7-12), uniforms, annual magazine, materials for practical subjects, textbooks and workbooks. Students may sit PSAT, SAT I, SAT II, Microsoft Office Specialist, Advanced Subsidiary Level, Advanced Placement, BJC and BGCSE exams. Academic and special interest classes are held for adults through the evening institute – The Centre for Further Education. Approx 1,500 pupils, 101 teachers. Principal, Andrea Gibson, P O Box N-7127; tel 393-1666 or 393-2646; fax 393-3248, e-mail info@qchenceforth.com or visit www.qchenceforth.com.

St. Andrew's School, The International School of The Bahamas:

Yamacraw Hill Rd. independent, International Baccalaureate (IB) school. Students 2 ½-18 yrs. Three terms, \$1,615-\$4,025 per term depending on class. Students take BJC, BGCSE, SSAT, PSAT, SAT and IB diploma exams. Approx 830 pupils and 68 teachers. Director of Admissions, P O Box EE-17340, tel 324-2621, fax 324-0816, e-mail swilson@st-andrews.com, or visit www.st-andrews.com.

St. Anne's School: Fox Hill. Anglican. Students 4 ½ - 18 yrs. Three terms: primary, \$885 per term plus \$132 - \$137.75 books first term only; secondary, \$1,000 per term. Incidental fees: insurance \$25 per year, lab fees \$25 per term, uniforms books and equipment. Students take BJC, BGCSE, Pitman, PSAT, and SAT exams. Admission by exam. Approx 700 pupils and 62 teachers. Principal, Cynthia Wells; vice-principal of the secondary dept Curt Hollingsworth; vice-principal of the primary dept Sonia Johnson; P O Box SS-6256; tel 324-1203, 324-1226 or 324-1481; fax 324-0805.

St. John's College: Bishop Eldon Dr. Anglican. Established in 1947. Students 4-17 yrs. Three terms: preparatory dept \$885 per term, plus book fee; secondary dept \$1,000 tuition; lab fees \$25 – books additional. In both departments there is a \$25 insurance fee (first term only), and a \$5 Edline fee, an online service that allows parents and students to access grades, assignments and other school news and information via the Internet. BJC, BGCSE, PSAT, Pitman and SAT exams. Admission to secondary dept is by examination. Approx 794 pupils, 40 full-time teachers in secondary dept and 27 full-time in preparatory dept. Principal, Cleomie E. Woods, PO Box N-4858, tel 322-3249, 323-3030 or 325-8004, fax 322-7941.

Tambearly School at Sandyport:

Cable Beach. International student body 3-15 yrs. Prepares students for integration into schools abroad. All students use the computer and take French or Spanish. Grades 6-9 takes Latin. Three terms. Montessori CASA (3-5 yrs) \$1,400 half day, \$2,700 full day per term; Montessori CASA Kindergarten – grades 5, \$2,825 per term; grades 6-9, \$2,980 per term. Accommodates up to 16 students per class. Approx 190 pupils, 15 full-time and 2 part-time teachers. Principal, Alice Langford, PO Box N-4284, tel 327-5965, fax 327-5963, e-mail tambearly@coralwave.com or visit www.tambearly.com.

Temple Christian: PreSchool and elementary school, Collins Ave. Kindergarten (K3)-grade 6. Fees K3-K4 \$600; K5 \$650; grades 1-6 \$750. Book fees are paid directly to the

school. Students take the GLAT in grades 3 and 6. Approx 750 pupils and 39 teachers. Principal, Sharmaine Porter; elementary vice-principal Deborah Burrows; pre-school vice-principal Ethlyn Turnquest, PO Box N-1566, tel 325-1119, fax 325-3260.

High School, Shirley St & Twynam Ave. Grades 7-12. Fees \$900 plus electives. Most textbooks are purchased locally. Curriculum for all grades includes computer and Spanish. Students sit the BGCSE, BJC, Pitman, PSAT, and SAT exam. Approx 470 pupils and 31 teachers. Admission by exam. Principal Neil Hamilton; vice-principal, Rosemary Cartwright, PO Box N-1566, tel 394-4481 or 394-4484, fax 393-0058.

Westminster College: Blake Road and R E Cooper Blvd. Christian. Grades K5-12. Students are prepared for GLAT, BJC, and BGCSE examinations and for entrance to colleges both locally and abroad. Westminster also has an evening division and offers the Bahamas GED certificate. President, Dr R E Cooper Jr, PO Box Dr R E Cooper Jr, PO Box N-8572, tel 327-3622 or 327-1848, fax 327-4588 or visit www.westminstercollegebahamas.com.

Private secondary schools

Aquinas College: Madeira St. Roman Catholic. Three terms. Grades 7-12. Prepares candidates for BJC, BGCSE and American College Board exams. Tuition: \$2,256 per year. Additional fees may apply for elective courses. Registration: \$50 (non-refundable). Uniforms. Approx 500 pupils, 36 teachers. Principal, Shona Moss Knowles, PO Box N-7540 tel 322-8933/4 or 323-0291/2, fax 323-1620.

St Augustine's College: Bernard Rd. Roman Catholic. Grades 7 – 12. Students 11 -1 18 yrs. Education equivalent to British comprehensive schools, incorporating elements of American junior and senior prep school along with computer science. Three terms, \$3,045 per year plus a \$200 sea fee. Students sit BJC, BGCSE, PSAT and SAT exams, and 81% of graduating students receive a minimum of five subject passes with grade C or better. Entrance exams are held in Jan of each year. Approx 900 pupils and 55 teachers. PO Box N-3940, tel 324-1511.

Special education

Blairwood Academy: Village Rd, south of Queen's College. Kindergarten-grade 12. Three terms. Blairwood Academy is an alternative school, dedicated to average to bright students who benefit from a small structured environment.. Special programmes for students with learning disabilities, language deficits or attention deficits. There is a full-day school programme, after-school tutoring and summer school. Testing and evaluations can be done to diagnose learning strengths and weaknesses. The school maintains contact with an extensive network of related professionals and can provide referrals to other services as needed. PO Box N-524, tel 393-1303, or 394-3329, fax 393-6952, e-mail blairwoodacademy@gmail.com.

Hopedale Centre: Highbury Park, immediately west of Holy Cross Church off Soldier Road. For students 5-17 yrs who have not been successful in traditional classroom settings. Approx 35 pupils with eight to a class, or one-on-one if necessary. Eight teachers. Structured supportive classroom environment and basic skills curriculum. Ungraded programme allows students to work at their own pace. An individual Education Plan (IEP) for each student is based on assessed learning needs. Life skills, vocational and career

training are part of the curriculum. Director, Arlene Davis, PO Box N-8883, tel 393-8924, fax 394-4792.

Tertiary education

Bahamas Baptist Community College:

Jean St off Prince Charles Dr Baptist. Established in 1995, it is the first community college in The Bahamas. Full-time and part-time programmes, including Associate of Arts degrees in accounting, management, biology, human resource management, office administration, computer information systems, mathematics, early childhood education, primary education, law and criminal justice. The college maintains a large college preparatory department to prepare students for entry at the associate degree level. Professional development courses are offered through the continuing education department. These include basic accounting, information technology and supervisory management. The college operates on a semester system, Sept-dec, Jan-April, with one summer session, May-June. Approx 700 full and part-time students and 27 full and part-time lecturers. Tuition is \$85 per credit. Acting president, Dr Celestine Williams, PO Box N-4830, tel 364-0695, fax 364-3209.

Bahamas Technical & Vocational Institute (BTVI): Nassau, Freeport, Exuma and Andros. BTVI is publicly funded and its mission is to produce highly skilled individuals with strong work ethics through market-driven career and technical education and training, enabling them to achieve national or international credentials and participation in national development.

Programmes are structured on the semester system with a three-week job internship/practicum period. Programmes include construction, mechanical, computer repair, automotive and electrical trades, souvenir manufacturing, beauty and fashion trades. BTVI also offers professional development courses. There are approx 1,200 students at the Nassau campus, 350 in Grand Bahama. PO Box N-4934, tel 502-6300, fax 393-4005.

The College of The Bahamas (COB):

Established in 1974, the college has three campuses: Oakes Field and Grosvenor Close in New Providence, and Northern Bahamas in Freeport, Grand Bahama. College centres, run by resident coordinators, are located in Abaco, Exuma and Andros. Two research centres, Bahamas Environmental Research Centre and Gerarce Research Center, are located in Andros and San Salvador, respectively. The college offers a range of programmes leading to associate and bachelor's degrees and professional certifications. COB partners with a number of offshore universities to offer a number of master's degrees, as well as the Bachelor of Laws in conjunction with the University of the West Indies. The college is now devising its own master's programmes and opportunities for graduate studies continue to increase as the institution draws nearer to full university status. The academic programme is administered by four faculties: Business, Liberal & Fine Arts, Pure & Applied Sciences and Social & Educational Studies. Degree programmes are delivered through seven academic schools: Business, Communication & Creative Arts; English studies; Education; Nursing & Allied Health Professions; Sciences and Technology; and Social Sciences. The institutes of Marine and Environmental Studies, Culinary and Hospitality Management and International Languages & Cultures have been established for research and outreach programmes.

Bachelor's degrees can be obtained in accounting, office administration, finance, banking and finance (with options in private banking/trust and foreign languages), computer

information systems, biology/chemistry, history, mathematics, management, marketing, nursing, public administration, social work and teacher education (primary and secondary levels), psychology and English.

Through outreach programmes, the Centre for Continuing Education and Extension Services offers courses in personal and professional development and academic upgrading.

COB operates on a semester system, Aug-Dec and Jan-Apr, with two summer sessions, May-June and June-July. Tuition is \$100 per credit hour for Bahamians for courses at 100 and 200 level, and \$150 per credit hour for courses at 300 and 400 level. Fees for non-Bahamians are double. Approx. 4,000 full and part-time students. Admissions Office, College of The Bahamas, PO Box N-4913, Nassau, tel 302-4377 or 302-4499, fax 302-4586, admissions e-mail admissions@cob.edu.bs, general information e-mail communication@cob.edu.bs.

Eugene Dupuch Law School: This law school operated by the Council of Legal Education is conducting classes from temporary quarters at The College of the Bahamas' School of Hospitality and Tourism Studies. The school is named in honour of the late Eugene A Dupuch, QC. The law library is temporarily located opposite the Clarence A Bain Bldg on Thompson Blvd. The administration dept is located on Farrington Rd and the legal Aid Clinic is housed in the VBM Building on Horseshoe Dr, Oakes Field. The law school building, when constructed, will be located on JFK Drive next to the St John's College playground.

Graduates of Eugene Dupuch Law School receive a Legal Education Certificate, a professional qualification enabling the holder to be admitted to practice in the Caribbean territories. The two-year programme includes civil procedure and practice I; civil procedure and practice II; conveyancing and registration of title; criminal practice and procedure; evidence and forensic medicine; landlord and tenant; legal drafting and interpretation; law office management, accounting and technology; remedies; ethics, rights and obligations of the legal profession; and succession.

A six-month programme is also offered for common law professionally trained persons. Graduates are eligible to be admitted to practice in the Commonwealth Caribbean. Administration, PO Box SS-6394, Nassau, tel 326-8507/8, fax 326-8504, e-mail admin@edls.edu.bs, or visit www.edls.edu.bs.

Grosvenor Academy: A division of International Language Resources (ILR), 64 Grosvenor Close, Shirley St. Variety of courses for all age groups, pre-school to adult. Language courses predominate, but general interest courses are also offered, along with enrichment/remedial courses for children. A full-time English as a Foreign Language (EFL) programme started in June 1998.

ILR also serves the Bahamas' business community with translation and interpreting, as well as on-site language courses tailored to the needs of a particular business or industry. Dr. John Knowles, PO Box SS-19823, tel 323-2078, fax 323-6914.

Sojourner-Douglass College: Gold Circle House, East Bay St. Branch campus of Sojourner-Douglass, Baltimore, MD. The college is committed to providing mature

Bahamians access to higher education. It allows adults to pursue full-time undergraduate studies without disrupting their jobs or leaving home. The average student is 36 yrs old. The college offers specialized training geared to government employment, banking, criminology and industry-specific needs. Provides teacher training for The Bahamas' primary and secondary school system and continuing education and master's degree programmes. There are approx 33 full and part-time faculty and staff. P O Box SS-5630, tel 394-8570, fax 394-8623.

Success Training College: Bernard Rd. The nation's first private college was established in Nassau in 1982 and expanded to Freeport in 1998. The college offers a wide array of associate degree programmes in business, accounting, hospitality, medical assisting, dental assisting, early childhood education, pharmacy technician, electronic technology, computer engineering technology, network administration, Internet communication and others. Day, evening and weekend classes are available. The college conducts a self-contained weekend programme that permits working persons to complete an associate degree programme in computer information systems, business administration, accounting or public administration by attending classes on Sat only.

The college also offers a large number of certification courses and programmes including PC Technician, Internet Technician, Microsoft Certified System Engineer and Microsoft Office User Specialist. Bachelor of Science degree programmes in business are also available for external students through the Univ of London. Preparation for the Bachelor of Law degree is offered in conjunction with Holborn College in England. Admission into all programmes is year-round and anyone with passes in BGCSE English and mathematics, plus a high school diploma may apply. A college preparatory course is available for students without admission qualifications. Office of Admissions, PO Box FH-14161, tel 324-7770/1, fax 364-7313, or visit www.successbahamas.com.

University of The West Indies (UWI): The Bahamas has been affiliated with the University of the West Indies since Jan 1964. It is regional, serving most of the English-speaking Caribbean, and has three campuses on the islands of Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados. It maintains a UWI Centre and full-time resident tutor in Nassau through whom Bahamian students may seek admission to any of the campuses. The office also coordinates distance education programmes of the university in areas such as agriculture, business and public administration, education and counselling.

Degree programmes are also offered at the Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management, a dept of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the university. The final two years of these programmes are completed in Nassau at the Tourism Training Centre, Thompson Blvd.

At Princess Margaret Hospital, UWI offers Part II, 4th and 5th (clinical years), of the medical degree programme (MBBS). Students complete Part I at UWI campuses in Jamaica or Trinidad prior to coming to The Bahamas.

A UWI bachelor degree in law (LLB) is offered as a joint programme with The College of The Bahamas. UWI Centre, School of Continuing Studies, PO Box N-1184, tel 323-6593, fax 328-0622, e-mail uwibahamas48@hotmail.com.

Schools for the handicapped

Bahamas Red Cross Centre for Deaf Children: Horseshoe Dr. Government-assisted. Pre-school-18 yrs, with some students integrated in special classes in government primary and high schools. Help is also given to hearing-impaired children in ordinary classes. No tuition fees. General studies with the help of modern hearing-aid equipment. Classes 9am-3pm. Approx 50 students, 10 specialist teachers. Also parental guidance, and counselling for deaf people of all ages. Principal, Tessa Nottage, Bahamas Red Cross Centre for Deaf Children, PO Box N-91, tel 323-6767, fax 328-5294.

The Salvation Army Erin Harrison

Gilmour School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Children and May & Stanley Smith Resource Centre: 33 Mackey St. Coed for school-aged blind and partially sighted students. Although the school follows curriculum guidelines of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, adaptations are made for individual students in motor development, mobility training (using a cane) and daily living skills. Special media are used to teach blind and partially sighted students, including Braille machines, large print material, writing guides, talking calculators and abacus equipment. Blind students also take computer classes with talking computers. A library is available to visually impaired people with books in Braille, talking books and giant-print books. Blind and partially sighted students are encouraged to study for and sit the BGCSE. Divisional Commander, PO Box N-205, tel 394-3197 or 393-2745.

Stapledon School: Dolphin Dr. Government-owned. For the educable and trainable mentally and physically handicapped students 5 years and older. The curriculum includes computer studies; basic numbers; reading and language concepts; personal, social and daily living skills; housekeeping; landscaping; car detailing; ceramics; craft; guidance and agriculture. Nurse and speech therapist come in twice a week and a clinical psychiatrist twice a month. Enrolment is 138 students including 11 children in the Autistic Centre and seven physically disabled/mentally retarded students in the Physically Disabled building. 20 teachers, 8 teacher's aids, 2 social services aides. Tuition free. Classes 9am-3pm. Apply to headmistress, Stapledon School, or Special Services Division, PO Box N-3913, tel 323-4669 or 323-6000.

For further information please contact:

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