

# **THE CBC EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KENYA**

The Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) education system is an adjustment from the previous 8-4-4 system that has been in practice since 1985. The CBC system was implemented in 2017 and focuses on each student's abilities and strengths rather than the 8-4-4 system that was more exam based. In the CBC system students still learn the subjects that were taught in the 8-4-4 system but more practical skills have been incorporated to help propel them towards a career path that is more aligned with their strengths.

## **The structure**

The CBC system will now be divided into 2-6-6-3 system.

2 years in lower primary school, 6 years in upper primary school, 6 years in secondary school and 3 years in university.

### **2 years-Lower primary school**

play group and PP1 class. Ages 3 – 5 years

### **6 years – Upper primary school.**

*Grade 1 – Grade 6*

In grade 6 the students will take a national exam called Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (**KPSEA**) and they will proceed to grade 7.

### **6 years – Secondary school**

This is divided into two groups

- *Grade 7–grade 9 (Junior secondary)*  
In grade 9 the students will take a national exam called Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (**KJSEA**). This exam will replace the 8-4-4 KCPE exams. In this exam, the students are placed in either social sciences or Arts and Sports depending on their strengths. This exam will determine the career path they will take in future when they join university.
- *Grade 10-12 – Senior secondary.*  
This is the normal secondary school system, and they will study for three years. They will sit for their KCSE exam in grade 12 and proceed to university.

### **3 years – University**

After KCSE the students will be placed to colleges and universities for three years depending on the career paths, they picked in grade 9 either social sciences or Arts and sports based.