

## 1. School Structure

- Basic Education in Brazil is divided into:
  - Early Childhood Education (Creche & Pré-escola, ages 0-5) – Not mandatory.
  - Fundamental Education (Ensino Fundamental, ages 6-14) – Mandatory, lasting 9 years.
  - Secondary Education (Ensino Médio, ages 15-17) – Lasts 3 years; recently reformed to offer different pathways (general, technical, vocational).

## 2. Public vs. Private Schools

- Public Schools (Municipal/State/Federal): Free but often underfunded, with large class sizes. Some federal schools (like Colégio Pedro II in Rio) are highly prestigious.
- Private Schools: Charge tuition and usually offer better infrastructure. Some elite schools (e.g., São Bento in Rio or Porto Seguro in SP) cost over R\$5,000/month.