

# **K-12 EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AROUND THE WORLD**

K-12, usually spoken as “K twelve” or “K to twelve” is a term used to refer to the combination of primary and secondary education. K means Kindergarten while 12 means class 12th, which are usually the first and last grades of School Education in many countries. These are the years which play a very important role in shaping the future of a student.

Educational boards are organizations that provide various educational programs. Sometimes, a single board may offer more than one program for the same level of education.

From the pool of several educational boards, here we have compiled a list and introduction of the most well-known and highly reputed K-12 boards. They can be basically divided into the Indian boards and the International boards.

These boards offer different curricula for different levels. They vary from each other in teaching methods, areas of focus and grading systems. Every education system is unique and has its own approach to teaching.

Although there are various bases on which these educational boards differ from each other, the following are major factors which distinguish one board from another.

- Syllabus and subjects offered
- Teaching methods and approach
- Assessment and grading

## **Indian K-12 Educational Boards**

In India, there are several educational boards which offer K-12 educational programs. The following are the most famous among them.

**CBSE:** The Central Board of Secondary Education, usually

referred to as CBSE is a renowned education board in India. It was established in 1962 and comes under the Government of India. It gives affiliations to both public and private schools, offers curriculum and conducts the annual examinations of classes 10th and 12th.

CBSE is also followed in countries such as Malaysia, Japan, UAE, Singapore, Russia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Oman, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and several other countries. CBSE is known for its major focus on Math and Sciences. It is said to be a more suitable program for students who aspire to study Engineering and Medicine in their higher education.

## **CISCE**

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations is a national level private board which offers curricula and conducts examinations for class 10, called the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) and also for class 12, called the Indian School Certificate (ISC). This curriculum is also followed in countries such as UAE, Singapore, Indonesia and others.

## **State Boards**

Every state in India has a state education board for both 10th and 12th. These boards vary in their approach to education. However, the subjects are nearly the same as the main regional languages. The State boards of Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh enjoy a comparatively higher reputation than other state boards.

## **International K-12 Educational Boards**

On the international level, there are several educational boards which have garnered a high reputation and recognition. The following are the most reputed and widely accepted educational boards in the world.

### **Cambridge Assessment International Education (Cambridge International):**

Cambridge Assessment International Education, commonly

referred to as “Cambridge International” is one of the most highly reputed educational boards in the world. Schools in more than 160 countries have subscribed to the courses and examinations offered by Cambridge International.

In K-12 education, Cambridge International offers three major qualifications and also conducts its exams. They are IGCSE, O-Levels and A-Levels.

## **IGCSE**

IGCSE stands for 'International General Certificate of Secondary Education'. It is a certification which is equivalent to the SSC or class 10th certification of India. It is considered to be one of the most rigorous curricula in the world and enjoys an unmatched reputation. It is also the most widely subscribed curricula for 14-19 years old students and is considered as the international variant of the British GCSE curriculum.

### **O-Level:**

O-Level is another curriculum which is also provided by Cambridge International. It is considered equivalent to the IGCSE but there are fewer coursework options in O-Levels. In other words, it is a version of IGCSE with slight variations in the syllabus and teaching methods. Another difference between the two curriculums is that while IGCSE is more inclined towards global subjects, O-Level curriculum is more inclined towards specific local needs like minority languages and reading and writing skills. O-Level is not subscribed as widely as the IGCSE, as many schools subscribing O-Level have switched to the IGCSE curriculum.

### **Cambridge International As & A Levels:**

This qualification is provided by the Cambridge International for students aged 16 to 19 years. The curricula are unique as they are based on encouraging and imbibing in-depth subject knowledge, independent thinking and is constructed around reasoning and decision-making skills. 55 subjects are offered under these curriculums which can be altered in any combination by the school. The AS-Level is for class 11 while the A-Level is for class 12.

## **International Baccalaureate:**

The International Baccalaureate Organization, commonly known as IB is another highly reputed educational board which offers a number of well- devised and carefully structured educational curricula for various levels. It is based in Switzerland and was founded in 1968.

All over the world, this curriculum is hailed as the best and the most holistic in its approach. The IB programs train students and educate them in a global context, unlike other programs. The programs offered by the IB are PYP (Primary Years Program), MYP (Middle Years Program) and the IBDP (IB Diploma Program).