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OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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ON EDUCATION

CHAPTER 1

*GENERAL PROVISIONS*

**Article 1. Legislation of the Republic of Armenia on education**

This Law shall define the principles of state policy in the field of education and the legal and organisational as well as financial and economic grounds of the education system.

The field of education shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, this Law and other legal acts.

## **Article 2. Purposes of the legislation in the field of education**

Purposes of the legislation in the field of education shall be as follows:

- (1) ensuring and protecting the right to education of citizens of the Republic of Armenia as referred to in the Constitution;
- (2) distributing and separating competences among public administration and local self-government bodies;
- (3) creating legal guarantees and mechanisms for the operation and development of the education system;
- (4) determining the rights, obligations and liability of legal and natural persons, and legal regulation of the mutual relations thereof.

## **Article 3. Main concepts used in this Law**

The following concepts shall be used in this Law:

- (1) “**education**” — an instruction and upbringing process in the interests of a person, society and the State, aimed at preserving the knowledge and transferring it to generations;
  - (1.1) “**instruction**” — a process carried out through an educational programme that is directly or indirectly aimed at organising, implementing or assisting in the studies of an individual;
  - (1.2) “**lifelong learning**” — outcomes of studies achieved through formal, non-formal and informal education throughout the entire life of a person by which the individual forms or improves his or her knowledge, skills, abilities and the system of values;

(1.3) “**formal education**” — a certain level or integrity of basic programmes of general education and professional (vocational) education which are implemented by relevant educational institution(s) and lead to granting a qualification degree or certification;

(1.4) “**non-formal education (instruction)**” — a supplementary instruction programme of education or integrity of those which are implemented through relevant educational institution(s) or organisation and (or) service competent to perform that function, but do not lead to granting a qualification degree or official recognition of the outcomes of studies, except for the cases provided for by laws of the Republic of Armenia;

(1.5) “**informal education**” — outcomes of studies achieved as a result of daily and family life, rest, leisure, work and other different actions that, as a rule, are not planned by a person as goal-oriented studies, are not organised and coordinated in terms of time or resources, do not lead to official recognition of the outcomes, except for the cases provided for by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

(1.6) “**supplementary education (instruction)**” — non-formal studies through supplementary educational programme, the maximum duration whereof may be up to five months;

(1.7) “**attendee**” — a person enrolled in and studying under the supplementary educational programme;

(1.8) “**social partner**” — an organisation or association of organisations supporting, collaborating with and interested in the development of the system of professional (vocational) education and instruction, particularly unions of employers, trade unions and other public associations, as well as any organisation, state and community authorities implementing educational and academic programmes;

(2) “**state educational standard**” — a regulatory norm establishing the mandatory minimum for the content of educational programmes, the maximum academic workload of learners and quality requirements to graduates;

(3) “**educational (including military) programme**” — the content of relevant level of education and specialisation therein;

(3<sup>1</sup>) “**special education**” — a system of instruction and education of persons in need of special conditions for education as well as that of children having demonstrated anti-social conduct, which, on the basis of one or several educational programmes, may be implemented in special or common institutions of general education, those of professional (vocational) education;

(4) “**educational institution**” — an organisation or a subdivision thereof with a status of a legal person implementing one or more educational programmes and ensuring the instruction and upbringing of learners in accordance with the requirements of these programmes;

(4.1) **military education institution** — an educational institution implementing graduate and post-graduate professional education and ensuring the instruction and upbringing of learners in accordance with the requirements for military education programmes;

(5) “**kindergarten**” — an educational and upbringing institution implementing a pre-school education programme;

(6) “**educational institution of general education**” — an educational institution implementing one or more basic programmes of general education;

(7) *(Point repealed by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009);*

(8) “**educational complex**” — an association of educational institutions implementing different educational programmes;

(8.1) “**vocational school**” — an organisation with the status of a legal person or a subdivision thereof implementing a primary vocational (handicraft) education programme;

(9) “**college**” — an organisation with the status of a legal person or a subdivision thereof implementing a secondary vocational education programme;

(10) “**university**” — a higher education institution, the activities whereof are aimed at organising higher, post-graduate and supplementary education, fundamental scientific research and studies in different directions of natural sciences, sociology, science and technology, and culture;

(11) “**institute**” — a higher education institution implementing professional and post-graduate education programmes and scientific studies in a number of directions of science, economy and culture;

(12) “**academy (educational)**” — a higher education institution the activities whereof are aimed at developing education, science, technology and culture in a particular field; which carries out the preparation and re-qualification of highly qualified specialists in a certain branch (sector) and implements postgraduate education programmes;

(13) “**conservatory**” — a higher education institution, the activities whereof are aimed at preparation, raising the qualification of specialists and implementation of post-graduate education programmes in the field of music;

(14) “**branch**” — a territorial separated subdivision of an educational institution, which implements one or various educational programmes;

(15) “**educational centre**” — an organisation (including an educational institution) implementing supplementary educational programme(s);

(16) “**licensing**” — the process of authorisation of activities of an educational institution;

(17) “**attestation**” — evaluation of the activities of an educational institution and that of the quality, content and level of preparation of the graduates thereof, in accordance with the requirements of state educational standards;

(17.1) “**qualification**” — a status certifying the compliance of a person with the professional (vocational) qualification description in the result of final attestation, which is granted upon relevant document;

(17.2) “**national framework of qualifications**” — the integrity of descriptions of qualification degrees of professional (vocational) education, which includes generalised

descriptions of outcomes of instruction in each level of studies, and those of knowledge, skills and abilities required for professional (vocational) activities;

(18) “**state accreditation**” — recognition by the State of compliance of the quality of preparation of specialists with state educational standards;

(18<sup>1</sup>) “**craftsman**” — a qualification degree of primary vocational (handicraft) education, which is granted to persons having passed state final attestation in accordance with primary vocational (handicraft) education programme and (or) qualification procedure;

(19) “**specialist**” — a qualification degree of secondary vocational education, which is granted to persons having passed final attestation in accordance with secondary vocational education programme;

(20) “**Bachelor’s degree**” — a qualification degree of higher professional education, which is granted to persons with secondary education having passed attestation in accordance with at least four-year higher professional education programmes (in case of police or military professions — in accordance with at least three-year programmes on the basis of police or military secondary vocational education);

(21) “**degree of a certified specialist**” — a qualification degree of higher professional education, which is granted to persons with secondary education or vocational education upon attestation results of at least five-year higher professional education programme;

(22) “**Master’s degree**” — a qualification degree of higher professional education, which is granted to persons with Bachelor’s degree or degree of a certified specialist, upon attestation results of at least one-year higher professional education programme;

(23) “**researcher**” — a qualification degree of post-graduate professional education, which is granted to persons with Master’s degree or degree of a certified specialist, upon attestation results of at least three-year post-graduate professional education programme of doctoral studies (aspirantura);

(24) “**intern**” — a qualification degree of higher medical education, which is granted to persons having completed higher medical education programmes and at least one-year post graduate studies;

(25) “**residency medical practitioner**” — a higher professional qualification degree which is granted to persons with higher medical education upon attestation results of one to five-year post-graduate professional education programme;

(26) “**external studies**” — a form of education provided in the form of self-education and final attestation of knowledge and abilities at an educational institution.

*(Article 3 amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, HO-237 of 9 October 2001, supplemented, amended and edited by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003, amended by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004, supplemented by HO-137-N of 25 May 2005, edited and amended by HO-165-N of 8 July 2005, amended, edited by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009, supplemented by HO-20-N of 4 February 2010, edited by HO-153-N of 28 October 2010, supplemented by HO-99-N of 30 September 2013, edited and amended by HO-17-N of 19 May 2014, supplemented, edited and amended by HO-83-N of 21 June 2014)*

#### **Article 4. State policy in the field of education**

1. The Republic of Armenia shall proclaim and guarantee the progressive development of the field of education as a key factor of strengthening the statehood.

2. The national school shall be considered as the base for state policy in the field of education, the main purpose whereof is the formation of a person with appropriate professional (vocational) proficiency, having been comprehensively developed and upbringing in the spirit of patriotism, statehood, and humanism.

3. The education system of the Republic of Armenia shall be aimed at reinforcing the spiritual and intellectual potential of the Armenian people, preserving and developing national and universal values. The Armenian Church shall contribute thereto as well.

4. The State Programme for Educational Development shall be considered as the organisational base for state policy in the field of education, which shall be approved by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia as proposed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

5. The State shall ensure the maintenance and development of the field of education through targeted budgetary financing, the extent of which shall be determined in accordance with the State Programme for Educational Development.

#### **Article 5. Principles of state policy in the field of education**

Principles of state policy in the field of education shall be as follows:

(1) the humanitarian nature of education, priority of universal values, human life and health, free and comprehensive development of an individual, fostering of civil consciousness, national dignity, patriotism, legality and environmental world outlook;

(2) accessibility, continuity, successive nature of education and its compliance with the level of development, characteristics and level of proficiency of learners by ensuring the state mandatory minimum;

(3) ensuring the principles of democracy in the field of education;

(4) integration into international education system;

(5) supporting the educational activities aimed at preserving the Armenian identity in the Diaspora;

(6) secular nature of education at educational institutions;

(7) reasonable autonomy of educational institutions;

(8) guaranteeing opportunities to receive education by citizens in state and non-state education institutions;

(9) ensuring equal status of educational institutions and the graduation documents issued thereby.

***(Article 5 edited by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004)***

## **Article 6. State guarantees for the right to education**

1. The Republic of Armenia shall ensure the right to education, irrespective of national origin, race, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property status or other circumstances. Restrictions on the right to professional (vocational) education shall be provided for by law.

2. The State shall ensure the right to education through regular operation of education system and creation of social and economic conditions for receiving education.

2.1. The State shall, in cooperation with social partners, ensure the development of professional (vocational) education and the system of instruction in accordance with the needs of labour market, as well as shall guarantee the proportionate operation of formal, non-formal and informal education system and recognition of the outcomes thereof.

3. The State shall ensure for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia free of charge general secondary education, as well as free of charge primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational, higher and post-graduate professional education, on a competitive basis, at state education institutions. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia holding dual citizenship shall, upon their choice, be admitted to primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher education institutions under the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia or foreigners.

Application of an amount of tuition fee with respect to citizens of Armenian origin learning, studying under fee-paid system of educational institutions, those registered and residing in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Samtskhe-Javakheti and Qvemo Qartli regions of Georgia, which is higher than that prescribed for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia learning under similar conditions of the educational institution concerned, shall be prohibited. Free of charge higher and post-graduate professional education may, on a competitive basis, be provided in non-state higher education institutions with educational programmes accredited as of professions, with full refund of tuition fees by the State in the form of student benefits.

The State shall, in respect of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia kept on records and permanently residing for the last eight years in borderline, as well as highland settlements, guarantee free of charge primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher professional education, on a competitive basis, in state education institutions. In this case, the admission on a competitive basis shall be carried out under the procedure separated from general competition, which shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia only for citizens of borderline, as well as highland settlements.

4. The State shall, at the expense of the State Budget, provide pupils of first to fourth years of state schools of general education with free of charge textbooks provided for by elementary general education programmes.

5. The State shall support learners — having demonstrated exceptional abilities — in receiving education of respective level, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

6. The State shall create necessary conditions for the purpose of receiving education in line with the peculiarities of development of citizens in need of special conditions for education and for ensuring social adaptation.

7. The State shall promote the participation of the Armenian Diaspora in education activities.

***(Article 6 amended by HO-107 of 20 November 2000, supplemented by HO-471-N of 11 December 2002, edited by HO-137-N of 25 May 2005, amended by HO-165-N of 8 July 2005, supplemented by HO-111-N of 23 June 2010, HO-188-N of 7 October 2009, HO-153-N of 28 October 2010, HO-50-N of 8 February 2011, amended by HO-37-N of 30 April 2013, supplemented by HO-83-N of 21 June 2014, edited by HO-201-N of 1 December 2014)***

**Article 7. Language of instruction**

Education in the Republic of Armenia shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On language”.

**CHAPTER 2**  
***EDUCATION SYSTEM***

**Article 8. Education system**

The education system of the Republic of Armenia shall constitute an interrelated integrity of state educational standards, state accreditation criteria, educational programmes of different levels and focus which ensure the successive nature of education, educational institutions and administration bodies of education.

*(Article 8 supplemented by HO-165-N of 8 July 2005)*

**Article 9. State educational standards**

State educational standards shall be established and promulgated in the Republic of Armenia, which shall be deemed as the basis for assessment of education level and qualification of graduates, irrespective of the form of education they have received as well as legal and organisational form of educational institutions.

**Article 10. Educational programmes**

1. The educational programme shall define the content of education of certain level and focus, the volume of required knowledge and skills.

Educational programmes implemented in the Republic of Armenia shall be as follows:

(1) programmes of general education (basic and supplementary);

(2) professional (vocational) education programmes (basic and supplementary).

2. Programmes of general education shall be aimed at comprehensive development of an individual, formation of his or her world outlook, creation of bases for the selection and mastering of appropriate vocational education programmes relevant to the preferences, inclinations and abilities thereof.

Basic programmes of general education shall be as follows:

(1) pre-school;

(2) elementary (general, specialised, special);

(3) basic (general, specialised, special);

(4) secondary (general, specialised, special).

3. Professional (vocational) education programmes shall be aimed at preparation of relevant qualified specialists, formation of abilities and skills, increase of knowledge and raising the qualification through successive nature of general education and professional (vocational) levels of education.

Basic professional (vocational) education programmes shall be as follows:

(1) primary vocational (handicraft);

(2) secondary vocational;

(3) higher professional;

(4) post-graduate professional.

4. Time periods for mastering basic programmes of general education and basic programmes of professional (vocational) education at educational institutions shall be determined by this Law and relevant state educational standards.

5. Supplementary educational programmes shall be aimed at complementing, improving and updating the knowledge, abilities and (or) skills obtained as a result of foregoing education and instruction or parallel thereto.

***(Article 10 edited by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009, HO-83-N of 21 June 2014)***

**Article 11. General requirements to the content of education**

1. The content of education shall be considered as one of the main factors of spiritual, economic and social progress of the society and shall be aimed at upbringing young generation, formation of proper conduct and manners, creation of necessary conditions for comprehensive and harmonised development of a person, for the self-determination and self-expression thereof, as well as at the establishment and development of a civil society, creation and improvement of a State governed by the rule of law.

2. The content of education shall ensure:

(1) formation of world outlook of learners in line with the contemporary level (degree) of knowledge and educational programmes;

(2) mastering by learners of national and universal cultural values;

(3) improvement of the society and formation of a modern individual and citizen that ensures new level of development of the nation;

(4) reproduction and development of the intellectual potential and labour force of the society.

**Article 12. Forms of education**

1. Educational programmes shall, in accordance with abilities and needs of learners, be implemented through the forms of on-site education, off-site education, distance learning, and external studies (family and self-education).

2. A uniform state educational standard shall be applicable for all forms of education within the framework of the same educational programmes.

***(Article 12 supplemented by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004)***

**Article 13. Types of educational institutions**

1. Types of educational institutions shall be as follows:

- (1) pre-school;
- (2) general education;
- (2<sup>1</sup>) primary vocational (handicraft);
- (3) secondary vocational;
- (4) higher professional;
- (5) supplementary education, including extracurricular upbringing;
- (6) post-graduate professional education.

2. Educational programmes may also be implemented in non-educational institutions in accordance with this Law, upon the permission of the authorised public administration body for education.

***(Article 13 supplemented by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, HO-58-N of 1 December 2003, amended by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009)***

**Article 14. Organising the process of education**

1. The process of education shall be organised in accordance with this Law and shall be regulated by curricula, syllabuses, academic schedules and class timetables.

2. In institutions of general education the process of education shall be regulated by model curricula and syllabuses. They shall be drawn up and approved by the authorised public administration body for education.

3. The curricula and syllabuses for primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education, as agreed by the authorised public administration body of the relevant field (fields) and adapted to the standards approved by the authorised public administration body for education, shall be approved by the educational institutions

implementing primary vocational (handicraft) and secondary vocational education programmes.

4. The curricula and syllabuses for higher education shall be drawn up and approved by the higher education institution. They shall be submitted to the authorised public administration body for education.

4<sup>1</sup>. The authorised public administration body for education shall supervise the compliance of curricula and syllabuses with state educational standards.

5. The beginning and duration of academic year at educational institutions shall be defined by the state educational standard.

6. Mastering of basic, secondary and professional (vocational) education programmes shall be completed upon mandatory final attestation of knowledge, abilities and skills of graduates, the procedure for holding whereof shall be established by the authorised public administration body for education.

7. Organisation of general education, primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher professional education in the form of external studies shall be carried out as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education, whereas the list of professions shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

8. Organisation of secondary vocational and higher professional education in the form of off-site education, distance learning shall be carried out as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education, whereas the list of professions shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 14 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, edited, amended and supplemented by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003, amended by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004, HO-161-N of 10 July 2009)***

**Article 15. General requirements to the admission to an educational institution**

1. In accordance with this Law, the requirements to the admission to the institutions of pre-school, general education, primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational education shall be established by the founder taking into account the peculiarities of the educational institution, whereas those to the admission to state and non-state higher education institutions — by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. An educational institution shall be obliged to introduce the Statute of the educational institution and other documents regulating the process of education to the applicants and the parents (or legal representatives) thereof.

3. General education shall commence from the age of six (which is attained by the end of December of the academic year concerned).

4. Admission to primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher professional education institutions shall be carried out on a competitive basis.

The matriculation of students in higher professional education institutions shall be completed within one month following the commencement of classes in the given academic year.

***(Paragraph repealed by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004)***

The privileges regarding the admission of applicants to state secondary vocational education institutions shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

5. The list of professions and admission examinations of higher education institutions for the year concerned shall, as proposed by the authorised public administration body for education, be approved and promulgated by 1 December of the year concerned by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Making amendments and supplements to the approved list shall be prohibited.

The list of professions and admission examinations for the year concerned of higher education institutions shall include:

- (1) the form of education (on-site, off-site, distance learning, external studies);
- (2) professions as of higher education institutions;
- (3) the names of subjects of admission examinations provided for each profession;
- (4) the form of examination (on a competitive, non-competitive basis);
- (5) the type of examination: written (dictation, essay, test), oral, interview, etc.

6. The examination papers (questionnaires, exam questions, tasks and other assignments) prepared for the conduct of final examinations to state schools of general education, as well as that of admission examinations to state or accredited non-state higher education institutions, shall be drawn up exclusively according to textbooks, manuals, practice test books and collections provided for by the educational programmes of state schools of general education (1-12<sup>th</sup> years), guaranteed for the use at state schools of general education by the authorised public administration body for education and used (taught) at state schools of general education during at least one academic year.

***(Article 15 edited by HO-36 of 21 February 2000, supplemented by HO-114 Of 4 December 2000, amended, supplemented and edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented by HO-237 of 9 October 2001, edited and supplemented by HO-338 of 7 May 2002, amended and supplemented by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004, edited and amended by HO-139-N of 13 June 2006, supplemented and amended by HO-153-N of 28 October 2010, edited by HO-17-N of 19 May 2014, HO-83-N of 21 June 2014)***

#### **Article 16. Implementation of basic programmes of general education**

***(Title edited by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009)***

1. Basic programmes of general education shall be implemented in institutions of general education, and as prescribed by law — in vocational education institutions and organisations implementing programmes of general education.

**2. (Part repealed by HO-201-N of 1 December 2014)**

3. Specialised programmes of general education shall be elaborated on the basis of the common programmes of general education aimed at ensuring enhanced general education of learners in the military field, fields of sport, science and crafts or in any field of art.

4. Primary, basic and secondary programmes of general education shall be built upon the principle of successiveness.

In case of failing to master the basic programme of general education (except for pre-school programme), the learner shall not be allowed to pass to the successive instruction level of general education.

5. Within the framework of basic programmes of general education the further studies of the learner having not mastered the programme of the academic year concerned, shall be regulated as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

**(Article 16 edited by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009, amended by HO-201-N of 1 December 2014)**

**Article 17. Pre-school education**

1. The main tasks of pre-school education shall be as follows:

- (1) creating basis for physical, moral and mental development of the child;
- (2) ensuring preconditions for communicating in the native language and studying foreign languages on that basis;
- (3) developing accountable elementary abilities;
- (4) familiarising with elementary rules of conduct, elements of mother nature and environmental protection, those of history and national culture;
- (5) developing sense of love and devotion towards homeland;
- (6) obtaining elementary working abilities and skills;

(7) preparing for school instruction.

2. The key role shall lie with the family in implementing educational programmes of pre-school education. The State shall create conditions for organising children's upbringing in the family.

3. For the purpose of assisting families, the State shall establish pre-school institutions: day nurseries and kindergartens with diversified programmes.

## **Article 18. General education**

***(Title amended by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009)***

1. The general education shall be aimed at comprehensive and harmonious development of mental, spiritual, physical and social qualities of learners, formation of a person as a future citizen, professional orientation, preparing him or her for independent life and professional (vocational) education.

2. The main tasks of general education shall be as follows:

(1) mastering of basic knowledge by learners on nature, society, technology, production and environmental protection, creation of conditions necessary for their self-education and self-development in the continuous education system;

(2) formation of an individual and a citizen who communicates to universal and national values, bears national cultural as well as moral and psychological heritage and upholds active civic views;

(3) implementation of complex programmes on military and patriotic upbringing as well as preliminary military training of learners.

3. Secondary education shall be provided in secondary schools of three-level general education with twelve years of total duration and by the following successive levels:

(1) elementary school (1-4<sup>th</sup> years);

(2) middle school (5-9<sup>th</sup> years);

(3) high school (10-12<sup>th</sup> years).

4. The instruction at an elementary school shall be aimed at formation of linguistic thinking and fundamentals of logic, learning skills and preliminary work skills, preliminary communication to national and universal values.

5. The instruction at a middle school shall be aimed at formation of scientific understanding of learners about healthy life style, world and nature, ensuring the minimum volume of knowledge required for independent work, education and independent social activities.

The first two levels of secondary school of general education shall constitute the basic school.

6. The instruction at a high school shall be aimed at mastering the knowledge that ensures the general education background. Differentiated (stream) instruction may be provided through supplementary educational programmes in accordance with inclinations, abilities and capacities of learners of a high school.

The instruction of Armenian language and Armenian literature, Armenian history at middle and high schools shall be considered as completed upon mandatory final attestation of knowledge.

7. The basic general education shall be mandatory. The requirement on compulsory nature of basic general education shall be retained until the learner attains the age of sixteen, if it has not been met at an earlier age. A learner may, after attaining the age of sixteen, leave the school upon consent of the parents (adopters or curator).

The requirement of compulsory basic general education shall not extend to certain categories of children in need of special conditions for education, which shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 18 amended and edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented by HO-48-N of 13 April 2006, edited by HO-139-N of 13 June 2006, amended and edited by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009)***

## **Article 19. Special education**

*(Title amended by HO-161-N of 10 July 2009)*

1. *(Part repealed by HO-57-N of 16 March 2004)*

2. The State shall establish special institutions (including after-school clubs and boarding schools) in order to organise the education of children in need of special conditions for education. The types of special institutions shall be determined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The education of children in need of special conditions for education may be provided upon the choice of parents both at common institutions of general education and special institutions through special programmes.

4. *(Part deleted by HO-137-N of 25 May 2005)*

5. The instruction and re-upbringing of minors with deviation of behaviour shall be carried out by the schools of general education, taking into account psychological peculiarities of learners.

*(Article 19 amended by HO-57-N of 16 March 2004, HO-137-N of 25 May 2005, HO-161-N of 10 July 2009).*

## **Article 20. Extracurricular upbringing**

1. Extracurricular upbringing shall be aimed at creating conditions for development of interests of learners through organisation of leisure thereof, and shall be aimed at their spiritual, aesthetic, physical development, military and patriotic upbringing, acquisition of environmental and applied knowledge.

2. Extracurricular upbringing shall be carried out through child and youth creative and aesthetic centres, musical, drawing and art schools, clubs, centres of young patriots, technicians, philologists and tourists, sports schools, recreation camps and other organisations carrying out extracurricular upbringing.

**Article 21. Implementation of professional (vocational) education programmes**

1. Professional (vocational) education institutions shall implement educational programmes referred to in this Law, which meet the requirements of different educational levels, aimed at preparing specialists with primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher professional qualification.

2. The list of educational professions of state and accredited non-state education institutions implementing professional (vocational) education programmes, as well as the duration of instruction for relevant professional (vocational) qualifications as of professions, the ground for education shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia as proposed by the authorised public administration body for education.

*(Article 21 edited by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003)*

**Article 22. Primary vocational (handicraft) education**

1. The primary vocational (handicraft) education shall be aimed at preparing specialists with primary vocational (handicraft) qualification.

2. The primary vocational (handicraft) education shall be provided in vocational schools, other vocational education institutions, educational centres and penitentiary institutions.

3. In case of availability of a corresponding licence, primary vocational (handicraft) education may be provided also in the form of individual vocational instruction (apprenticeship), the procedure for the provision whereof shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

4. The ground for primary vocational (handicraft) education shall, as of professions, be defined by the authorised public administration body for education.

*(Article 22 amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, edited by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003)*

**Article 23. Secondary vocational education**

1. The secondary vocational education shall be aimed at preparing specialists with secondary vocational qualification at least on the basis of basic general education.
2. The list of professions in respect of which the organisation of secondary vocational education is allowed on the basis of basic general education, shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
3. Secondary vocational education shall be provided in secondary vocational education institutions: colleges and training schools which may also implement programmes of general education and handicraft education programmes.
4. Graduates of secondary vocational education institutions, having passed the graduation attestation, shall be granted with a professional qualification.

Graduates of secondary vocational education institutions, having shown high academic performance, may continue their education at higher education institutions under relevant profession — in the second year — through distance learning. The procedure for continuing education, under relevant profession, at higher education institutions by the graduates of secondary vocational education institutions, having shown high academic performance, shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

*(Article 23 amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, edited by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003, HO-17-N of 19 May 2014)*

**Article 24. Higher professional education**

1. The higher professional education shall be aimed at preparing and re-qualifying specialists of high qualification, meeting educational development needs of a person on the basis of secondary general and secondary vocational education.
2. The following types of higher education institutions shall operate in the Republic of Armenia: university, institute, academy, and conservatory.

3. The status of a higher education institution shall be determined on the basis of its educational programmes, legal and organisational form, and availability of state accreditation.

4. The following degrees of higher professional education qualification shall be established in the Republic of Armenia:

(1) Bachelor's degree;

(2) degree of a certified specialist;

(3) Master's degree.

5. The list of professions of higher education institutions preparing certified specialists shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, as proposed by the authorised public administration body for education.

6. A higher education institution may, according to its nature and as prescribed by law, implement also programmes of general education, primary (handicraft) education and those of secondary vocational education in respect of the professions agreed with the authorised public administration body for education.

***(Article 24 edited by HO-153-N of 28 October 2010, supplemented by HO-17-N of 19 May 2014)***

#### **Article 25. Post-graduate professional education**

1. The post-graduate professional education shall be aimed at increasing the educational level and raising the scientific and pedagogical qualification of persons with higher professional education.

2. Post-graduate professional education shall be provided in doctoral studies (aspirantura), medical internship (internatura) and residency medical training (ordinatura) of higher education institutions and scientific organisations by educational programmes of a researcher and residency medical practitioner.

***(Article 25 amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, HO-63-N of 14 December 2004)***

**Article 26. Supplementary education**

1. Supplementary educational programmes shall be implemented in order to meet the professional and individual educational needs throughout the entire life of a person and shall be considered as means of ensuring non-formal instruction.
2. The task of supplementary educational programmes shall be to improve, update and complement previously obtained (foregoing) knowledge, abilities, skills and values.
3. Supplementary educational programmes shall be organised through trainings, courses of group and individual professional instruction and those of short-term instruction, the outcomes of studies whereof may be evaluated and recognised as prescribed by legislation.
4. The procedure for organising and implementing supplementary educational programmes, as well as the procedure of evaluating and recognising the outcomes of non-formal and informal instruction shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
5. The document (education certificate and supplement) of a unified sample, granted on the grounds defined by part 4 of this Article, may be accepted by the employer as a necessary, mandatory precondition for professional activities or certain occupation.

*(Article 26 edited by HO-83-N of 21 June 2014)*

**CHAPTER 3**

***EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS***

**Article 27. Status of educational institutions**

1. A state education institution shall be deemed as an organisation with a status of a legal person, which shall, in compliance with this Law, laws and other legal acts, acquire rights and obligations required for implementation of the tasks thereof.

2. A state education institution may, in compliance with the aim of its activities, provide fee-paid educational, research and scientific production services as well as fee-paid instruction, in accordance with the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

3. A state education institution shall have a balance-sheet, estimate and a bank account.

4. *(Point repealed by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)*

5. Non-state education institutions may have any legal and organisational form provided for by law.

*(Article 27 edited and amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, amended by HO-165-N of 8 July 2005)*

**Article 28.           Autonomy and academic freedoms of higher education institutions**

*(Title edited by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004)*

1. The academic and teaching staff, research workers and students (trainees, attendees) of higher education (military education) institutions shall enjoy academic freedoms. They shall be entitled to participate in the discussion of all issues related to the activities of the university and in the activities of elective bodies.

2. The academic and teaching staff shall, in accordance with state educational standards, be free in choosing the presentation and teaching methods of the study material being taught.

3. Research workers of a higher education institution shall be free in selecting or developing research topics on their own initiative.

4. Students (trainees, attendees) shall be free in receiving knowledge and engaging in research activities according to their inclinations. They may participate in the

performance of functions ensuring the quality of instruction and evaluate the performance efficiency of academic and teaching staff.

5. The elective positions of a higher education institution shall be as follows: the rector, the deputy head in educational matters of a military education institution, the branch (educational complex) director, the dean of a faculty (head of academic subdivision, head of faculty of a military education institution), head of a Chair, (head of Chair, head of cycle, head of group of a military education institution), the professor, the associate professor, the assistant and the lecturer. These positions shall be held after the consideration of candidacies and election thereof — by secret ballot — in the management bodies of higher education institution, *i.e.* the board of the higher education institution (branch), academic council, the council of faculty (academic subdivision).

***(Part deleted by HO-174 of 18 April 2001)***

6. The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall establish a state-funded scholarship programme for each year as of professions, educational institutions, borderline as well as highland settlements.

Higher education institutions shall, at their own expense, on the basis of the academic performance shown and in the amount of ten per cent of the number of students having been admitted to free of charge instruction system in the current year, refund the tuition fees of the students of fee-paid instruction system in accordance with the number of seats allocated for professions and approved by authorised public administration body for education of the Republic of Armenia.

The authorised public administration body for education shall, to the extent of total number of fee-paid seats approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and upon the proposal from the higher education institutions, approve the fee-paid seats for instruction purpose as of higher education institutions and professions.

The higher education institution shall, in the amount of at least seven per cent of the budget generated from tuition fees of students and at its own expense, taking as a basis the high academic performance shown and the social group, carry out partial refund of

tuition fee in the form of student benefit in respect of at least ten per cent of the academic integrity of students studying within fee-paid system.

Learners studying on a fee-paid basis may pay their tuition fees per semesters.

Higher education institutions shall also establish, if necessary, the mechanisms for monthly payment of tuition fees.

7. A higher education institution shall be entitled to dispose its own financial means, by ensuring independence of financial activities of the branch, faculty (academic subdivision), in accordance with the Statute of the higher education institution.

The draft of the cost estimate of a higher education institution shall, after having been drawn up, be approved by the council of higher education institution at the end of each calendar year and submitted to the authorised public administration body for education.

8. The Yerevan State University shall be considered as an autonomous educational as well as scientific and cultural establishment, the peculiarities of the status whereof shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

8.1. The peculiarities of the status of military education institutions shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

9. The applicants having failed in the competition for seats in respect of which tuition fees are fully refunded (free of charge) by the State in the form of student benefit, may, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, participate in competitions for fee-paid seats allocated by the authorised public administration body for education, on the basis of applications submitted by state and non-state higher education institutions. Students matriculated under this procedure may not avail of privileges specified in subpoint (a) of point 1 of Article 14 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On conscription”.

10. At least 25 per cent of the total number of members in the management bodies of higher education institutions shall comprise students who shall be nominated and elected by the elective and self-governing student representative body of the relevant level, *i.e.*

by the Student Council. The Statute of the Student Council of a higher education institution shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education.

***(Article 28 supplemented by HO-114 of 4 December 2000, amended and supplemented by HO-174 of 18 April 2001, amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, edited and amended by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004, amended by HO-210-N of 2 October 2007, edited by HO-162-N of 10 September 2008, edited and amended by HO-153-N of 28 October 2010, edited by HO-50-N of 8 February 2011, amended by HO-37-N of 30 April 2013, supplemented and amended by HO-99-N of 30 September 2013, edited by HO-22-N of 19 May 2014)***

**Article 29. Founder(s) of an educational institution**

1. The founder of a state education institution shall be deemed to be the Republic of Armenia represented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia or the respective state authorised body.
2. The founder of a community (district) education institution shall be deemed to be the community (district) represented by the self-government bodies of the community.
3. The founder of a non-state education institution may be deemed to be any natural and (or) legal person.
4. Educational institutions implementing military professional education programmes may be founded only by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 30. Establishment of an educational institution**

***(Title edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)***

1. An educational institution shall be established upon the decision of the founder(s).

2. An educational institution shall be considered as established from the moment of approval by the founder(s) of the Statute thereof and acquisition of state registration as prescribed by law.

***(Article 30 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)***

**Article 31. Name and location of an educational institution**

1. An educational institution shall have a name indicating the legal and organisational form, nature of the activities and the location thereof.
2. The location of an educational institution shall be considered as the location of permanently operating body thereof.
3. Names and locations of an educational institution and those of the branches thereof shall be indicated in the Statute of the institution.

**Article 32. Founding document of an educational institution**

1. The founding document of an educational institution shall be deemed to be the Statute approved by the founder(s) thereof.
2. The requirements of the Statute shall be binding for the educational institution and the founders thereof.
3. The Statute of an educational institution shall indicate the name of the institution, the legal and organisational form thereof, the location, scope and purpose of the activities as well as rules of management of the institution, relevant data on branches, the sources of formation of the property of educational institution, the procedure for making amendments and supplements to the Statute, the procedure for disposing of the property of the educational institution in case of liquidation thereof.

The Statute of an educational institution may contain other provisions not conflicting with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 33. Reorganisation of an educational institution**

*(Title amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)*

1. An educational institution may be reorganised in accordance with the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia and other laws.
2. An educational institution may be reorganised by merger, amalgamation, division, separation and restructuring.

*(Article 33 amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)*

**Article 34. Branches of an educational institution**

1. An educational institution may establish branches.
2. A branch shall not be considered as a legal person and shall operate in accordance with the Statute approved by the educational institution.

Establishment of branches of foreign education institutions and the activities thereof shall be regulated by this Law or interstate agreements.

Heads of the branch shall be appointed in accordance with the procedure defined by the Statute of the educational institution.

3. Branches shall act on behalf of the educational institutions having established them. Educational institutions shall be responsible for the activities of their branches.

**Article 35. Liquidation of an educational institution**

1. An educational institution shall be liquidated:

(1) upon the decision of founders or that of the body of a legal person authorised to that end under the Statute;

- (2) upon declaring the registration of the legal person as invalid by the court, in respect of the violations of law or legal acts committed at the time of establishment thereof;
  - (3) upon a court judgment, in case of engaging in the activities without authorisation (licence) or in the activities prohibited by law;
  - (4) as a result of bankruptcy of the educational institution;
  - (5) in other cases provided for by law.
2. In case of liquidation of an educational institution, the claims of creditors thereof shall be satisfied as prescribed by the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia.
  3. After satisfying the claims of creditors, the remainder of the property of the educational institution shall be delivered to its founders, unless otherwise provided for by the law, other legal acts or the Statute of the educational institution.
  4. Liquidation of an educational institution shall be considered as completed, whereas the operation thereof — as terminated from the moment of making a respective entry thereon in the State Register of Legal Entities.
  5. The procedure for further instruction of learners of the liquidated educational institution shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 35 amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)***

## **CHAPTER 4**

### ***MANAGEMENT OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM***

#### **Article 36. Competence of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the field of education**

The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall:

- (1) ensure the implementation of state policy on education;

- (2) approve the procedure for development and approval of state educational standards;
- (2.1) define the national framework of qualifications and approve the generalised descriptions of qualification degrees of education;
- (3) approve the list of professions instructed;
- (4) approve the state-funded scholarship programme of general education, primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher professional education;
- (5) approve the model Statutes of state education institutions;
- (6) approve the forms of state-recognised graduation documents;
- (6.1) define the procedure for organising and implementing supplementary educational programmes;
- (6.2) define the procedure for evaluating and recognising the outcomes of non-formal and informal instruction;
- (7) exercise other powers prescribed by law.

***(Article 36 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003, HO-20-N of 4 February 2010, HO-83-N of 21 June 2014)***

**Article 37. Competence of the authorised public administration body for education**

The authorised public administration body for education shall:

- (1) elaborate the State Programme for Educational Development and the procedure for development and approval of the state educational standards;
- (2) exercise supervision over the implementation of the State Programme for Educational Development and the application of state educational standards;
- (3) ensure the elaboration and publication of model programmes of general education, curricula, syllabuses, textbooks and training manuals;

- (4) carry out the licensing of educational institutions;
- (5) elaborate the model Statutes of state education institutions;
- (6) approve the procedure for qualification of pedagogical and managerial staff of educational institutions;
- (6.1) approve qualification descriptions as of professions and educational degrees;
- (7) draw up the lists of professions;
- (8) elaborate the state-funded scholarship programme of general education, primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher professional education institutions;
- (9) approve and supervise the implementation of the rules for admission to state and accredited non-state primary vocational (handicraft), secondary and higher education institutions;
- (10) approve the procedure for grade-completion and final testing of the knowledge of learners of educational institutions;
- (11) approve, in a prescribed manner, the honorary ranks and titles awarded by academic councils of accredited higher education institutions;
- (12) draw up the forms of state-recognised graduation documents in respect of all educational degrees;
- (13) establish the procedure for identification and recognition of equivalence of educational documents of foreign States;
- (14) ensure the formation, implementation of and supervision over the development programmes for state education institutions;
- (15) give consent, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, to the appointment and removal from office of the heads of departments (divisions) for education of marzpetarans [regional governor's office] and communities and the directors of institutions of general education;

(15.1) give consent in respect of reorganisation and liquidation of educational institutions by the respective state authorised body;

(16) exercise other powers prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Armenia and decisions of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The authorised public administration body for education shall carry out the competences defined by points 3, 6, 6.1, 7, 10 and 14 of this Article in the field of military education jointly with the relevant state authorised body.

***(Article 37 edited by HO-187 of 15 May 2001, edited and supplemented by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003, HO-20-N of 4 February 2010, amended by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011, supplemented by HO-99-N of 30 September 2013)***

#### **Article 37<sup>1</sup>. State Inspectorate for Education**

The implementation of the State Programme for Educational Development, application of state educational standards, the right to education, social guarantees in the educational system, the increase in the quality of education and mastering of educational programmes shall be ensured, through supervisory functions, by the State Inspectorate for Education of the authorised public administration body for education of the Republic of Armenia, the activities whereof shall be regulated by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On State Inspectorate for Education”.

***(Article 37<sup>1</sup> supplemented by HO-234-N of 15 November 2005)***

#### **Article 38. Competence of the marzpet [regional governor] in the field of general education**

The marzpet shall:

(1) ensure the implementation of state policy on education throughout the territory of a marz;

(2) supervise the compliance, by pre-school institutions and those of general education, with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia on education and with regulatory acts adopted by the authorised public administration body for education, ensure the implementation of educational and upbringing programmes in accordance with state educational standards;

(3) exercise coordination and supervision of keeping on records school-age children, ensure their enrolment in educational institutions;

(4) ensure the construction, exploitation and maintenance of buildings delivered to state education institutions by the right to use;

(5) exercise powers prescribed by laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 38 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)***

**Article 39. Competence of the head of community in the field of general education**

The head of community shall, by way of mandatory power:

(1) assist the implementation of state policy on education throughout the territory of the community in accordance with the principle of self-governance of educational institutions as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

(2) keep on records pre-school and school-age children, ensure their enrolment in educational institutions;

(3) exercise other powers prescribed by laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 40. Competence of an educational institution and management thereof**

1. An educational institution shall, within the scope of its competence, organise and carry out the methodical support, arrangement and implementation of admissions and academic process, selection and allocation of staff, scientific, financial, economic and other activities in accordance with this Law, other laws, legal acts of the Republic of Armenia and the Statute of the educational institution concerned.

2. The educational institution shall be managed in accordance with this Law, other legal acts and the Statute of the educational institution.

3. An educational institution shall be managed by considering the principle of management on an individual basis in conjunction with the principle of autonomy.

4. Management bodies of educational institutions shall be deemed to be the Board of Curators, Council of the Educational Institution, General Meeting, Academic Council and Executive Body. Management bodies of educational institutions, the procedure for the establishment and powers thereof shall be defined by the Statute of the educational institution.

5. An educational institution shall be managed by a director, rector (head), who shall be appointed (elected) and removed from office in accordance with the Statute of the educational institution.

The director, rector (head) of a state education institution may not simultaneously hold other state position or engage in any other paid occupation, except for scientific and pedagogical as well as creative work.

6. The powers between supreme and executive management bodies of an educational institution shall be distinguished by the Statute of the educational institution.

***(Article 40 supplemented by HO-36 of 21 February 2000, amended by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented by HO-165-N of 8 July 2005, amended by HO-201-N of 1 December 2014)***

**Article 41. Licensing of educational activities**

1. Educational programmes, provided for by law, may be implemented only in case of availability of a licence. A licence shall be issued to an educational institution in case of fulfilment of the following requirements:

- (1) availability of the main pedagogical as well as academic and teaching staff;
- (2) laboratory facilities and area for studies;
- (3) teaching and methodical support;
- (4) library and information system;
- (5) facilities for educational and practical internship.

2. The licence for educational activities shall be issued by the authorised public administration body for education.

3. The licensing of educational programmes shall be carried as prescribed by law and by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

*(Article 41 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)*

**Article 42. State accreditation**

1. State accreditation in respect of secondary vocational and higher professional education shall be carried as of educational institutions and the professions provided thereby.

2. The procedure for, criteria and validity periods of accreditation shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia as proposed by the authorised public administration body for education.

3. State accreditation shall be carried out as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia irrespective of departmental subordination as well as legal and organisational form of a professional education institution.

4. Conditions for state accreditation shall be as follows:

(1) assuring the quality of instruction in compliance with state educational standards;

(2) ***(Subpoint repealed by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011);***

(3) in respect of an educational institution — availability of state accreditation of at least 75 per cent of professions provided by that institution.

5. In case of introducing new professions, an educational institution shall preserve its state accredited status, provided that the requirements of subpoint 3 of point 4 of Article 42 of this Law are fulfilled.

6. State education institutions and the professions provided thereby, as well as medical professions provided by non-state education institutions must undergo mandatory accreditation process.

7. Accreditation of educational institutions, professions provided thereby shall be carried out by separate stages as of educational programmes.

8. Educational activities of separated structural subdivisions of an educational institution (educational complexes, branches) shall be licensed, whereas these subdivisions and the professions provided thereby shall be accredited under general grounds, as prescribed by this Law.

9. State accreditation certificate shall verify the level of the educational programmes implemented by an educational institution, the compliance of the content thereof and the quality of graduates with the requirements of state educational standards.

10. In case of granting a licence and state accreditation certificate or making amendments to these documents a state duty shall be charged under the procedure and in the amounts established by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state duty”.

***(Article 42 amended and edited by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011)***

**Article 43. State supervision over the quality of instruction**

1. The authorised public administration body for education shall create a licensing service for the purpose of rendering an opinion on licensing of educational institutions.

2. *(Point repealed by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011)*

3. *(Point repealed by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011)*

4. *(Point repealed by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011)*

5. *(Point repealed by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011)*

6. *(Point repealed by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011)*

7. For the purpose of evaluating the efficiency of implementation of educational programmes, exercising state supervision over quality assurance of education in educational institutions and other organisations implementing programmes of general education and primary vocational (handicraft) education programmes, the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall establish a state inspectorate for education.

*(Article 43 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented by HO-234-N of 15 November 2005, edited and amended by HO-151-N of 11 May 2011)*

**Article 44. The graduation document of an educational institution**

1. An educational institution shall grant a relevant document (education certificate, academic certificate, and diploma) to the persons having completed studies under educational programmes and having passed final attestation.

2. Educational institutions shall grant a graduation document to the persons having passed final attestation in respect of accredited professions (a graduation document on military education and civic education corresponding thereto — to graduates of military education institutions).

3. Non-state institutions of general education shall acquire the right to grant a state-recognised graduation document from the moment of licensing.
4. The graduation document shall be considered as a mandatory condition for receiving education of successive degree at educational institutions in respect of accredited professions.
5. The document attesting higher education for state bodies and state non-commercial organisations shall be deemed to be the graduation document issued by a state or accredited non-state higher education institution, unless otherwise provided for by law.
6. A relevant statement of information shall be issued to the person having not completed the level of education concerned.

***(Article 44 supplemented by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented, amended and edited by HO-63-N of 14 December 2004)***

## **CHAPTER 5**

### ***ECONOMIC BASIS FOR EDUCATION SYSTEM***

#### **Article 45. Relations pertaining to ownership in the education system**

1. For the purpose of ensuring the activities of a state education institution, the buildings, premises, equipments as well as the types of state property of consumptive, social, cultural and other nature delivered to the latter under the right of ownership or right to use (gratuitous or non-gratuitous) shall be approved by the Government.
2. A state education institution shall be responsible for maintenance and efficient use of the owner's property.
3. Non-state education institutions may own any property, except for restrictions on individual types of property, provided for by law.

4. The property of state education institutions may, in case of expropriation, be used only for academic purposes.

***(Article 45 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, supplemented by HO-58-N of 1 December 2003)***

**Article 46. Financing of state and community education institutions**

1. An educational institution shall be financed by the founder.
2. The State shall, in each new academic year, guarantee the allocation of means for educational needs in the amounts ensuring the progressive nature thereof. A percentage ratio of financing of education within current expenses of the State Budget must not be lower than the relevant indicator of the previous budget year.
3. Financing of an educational institution from the State Budget shall be carried out in the form of state-funded scholarship, subsidy, maintenance fees for state property and other forms. Financing criteria of an educational institution under state-funded scholarship shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, per one learner and as of the type of educational institution, whereas in individual cases (in mountaneous and borderline areas) — by special amounts.
4. Involvement of additional sources of financing may not cause reduction in the amounts of financing from the State Budget.
5. An educational institution may not implement fee-paid instruction activities instead of educational activities financed from the budget.
6. The main sources of financing of an educational institution shall be deemed to be the State Budget and the community budget.

Additional sources of financing shall be as follows:

- (1) investments made by legal and natural persons of the Republic of Armenia and foreign States;

(2) own funds deriving from fee-paid instruction, research, scientific and production, advisory, publishing activities and other forms of activities not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

(3) other sources, without prejudice to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

7. The State shall ensure a favourable tax policy in the field of education.

***(Article 46 edited by HO-209 of 26 July 2001)***

#### **Article 47. Funds of non-state education institutions**

1. Financing of the activities of non-state education institutions shall be carried out as prescribed by law.

2. Financing criteria of a non-state education institution may not, per one learner, be lower than the financing criteria established by the state standard for similar state education institutions.

#### **Article 48. Logistics base of educational institutions**

1. The logistics base of educational institutions required for settling issues related to the education, research, scientific and production activities and other issues in the field of education, shall be created and developed at the expense of budgetary funds as well as own funds, based on the State Programme for Educational Development and development programmes of educational institutions.

2. The logistics base of educational institutions shall, depending on the types and forms of these institutions, include the territories and facilities required for learners, as well as individual technical means and equipment, IT rooms for the instruction of persons in need of special conditions for education.

3. Children learning at special education institutions shall be provided with textbooks, special stationery and facilities, as well as scientific and methodical materials.

4. The provision of logistics support as well as scientific and methodical means for persons in need of special conditions for education shall be financed at the expense of the State Budget and other means not prohibited by law.

***(Article 48 edited by HO-201-N of 1 December 2014)***

## CHAPTER 6

### ***SOCIAL GUARANTEES FOR THE EDUCATION SYSTEM***

#### **Article 49. Rights and social protection of learners**

1. An educational institution shall contribute to the creation of conditions necessary for living conditions, food, health maintenance, leisure, physical and mental development of learners.

2. Involvement of learners in employment without the consent of the latter and (or) that of the parents (adopters or curator) thereof shall be prohibited. Application of methods of physical or psychological pressure in respect of learners shall be prohibited.

3. Relevant institutions of general education may be established, as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education, for children having demonstrated exceptional abilities.

4. The State shall ensure the instruction of children deprived of parental care and those lacking parental care at state institutions of general education.

5. Financing of institutions general education for learners in need of special conditions for education shall be carried out in increased amounts.

6. Learners of state primary vocational (handicraft), secondary vocational and higher professional education institutions shall receive educational allowance under the procedure and in the amounts established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

7. Learners of military education institutions shall be provided with monetary remuneration, uniforms, food and accommodation, as prescribed by law of the Republic of Armenia.

8. Learners of secondary vocational and higher professional education institutions shall have the right to receive a second profession on a fee-paid basis at the institution concerned or in another institution, as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

9. Learners shall, in case of having successfully passed the attestation, have the right to be transferred to another educational institution implementing educational programmes of relevant level, as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

10. The graduates of previous years of non-state higher education institutions shall have the right to receive a state-recognised diploma by taking final attestation examinations, as of professions provided by state and non-state accredited higher education institutions, by the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, in accordance with the professional syllabuses established by the authorised public administration body for education. The procedure for organisation of state exams shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia until 1 February 2011.

*(Article 49 supplemented by HO-467-N of 19 November 2002, HO-165-N of 8 July 2005, amended and supplemented by HO-153-N of 28 October 2010, amended by HO-22-N of 19 May 2014)*

**Article 50. Social guarantees for the employees of educational institutions**

1. Labour relations between an educational institution and the employees thereof shall be regulated in compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The remuneration rate for the work carried out by the administrative and pedagogical (academic and teaching) staff of state education institutions may not be lower than the average salary of the employees of budgetary institutions.

3. The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall establish an additional remuneration for teachers of the schools of general education at borderline, highland and mountainous settlements.

4. An educational institution shall ensure the processes of raising the professional qualities of and training the employees.

***(Article 50 supplemented by HO-107 of 20 November 2000)***

## **CHAPTER 7**

### ***INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION***

#### **Article 51. International cooperation in the field of education**

1. International cooperation in the field of education shall be carried out in compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and international treaties of the Republic of Armenia. Where international treaties of the Republic of Armenia provide for norms other than those provided for by this Law, the norms of the international treaties shall apply.

2. Educational institutions shall be entitled to co-operate with foreign educational, scientific and other organisations in compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

## CHAPTER 8

### *FINAL PROVISION*

#### **Article 52. Entry into force of the Law**

This Law shall enter into force from the moment of its promulgation.

## CHAPTER 9

### *TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*

#### **Article 53**

*(Article repealed by HO-338 of 7 May 2002)*

**Article 54.** Point 2 of Article 50 of this Law shall enter into force from 1 January 2000.

**Article 55.** Part 3 of Article 18 of this Law shall, only in accordance with part 3 of Article 15 of this Law, extend to persons admitted to institutions of general education in 2006 and thereafter.

Learners having been admitted to schools of general education before 2001 shall continue their education under educational programmes approved for secondary schools of ten-year general education.

Learners aged 6,5 years and older, having been admitted to the first year at schools of general education from 2001 to 2005 inclusive, as well as in 2006, shall continue their education under educational programmes approved for the eleven-year secondary school of general education.

The procedure for instruction and grade-completion of learners of the first year, set up by age groups at schools in 2006-2007 academic year, shall be established by the authorised public administration body for education.

The second year (learners aged 6,5 years and older, having been admitted to the first year in 2006-2007 academic year), third year and the successive years shall be renumbered by one number higher starting from 1 September of 2007-2008 academic year.

A transition to a three-year high school shall be made starting from 2009-2010 academic year.

***(Article 55 supplemented by HO-209 of 26 July 2001, edited by HO-139-N of 13 June 2006)***

**President**

**of the Republic of Armenia**

**R. Kocharyan**

Yerevan

8 May 1999

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