

**L A W**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Adopted on 10 July 2009

**ON GENERAL EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 1**

***GENERAL PROVISIONS***

**Article 1. Subject matter of the Law**

The law on general education shall establish the principles of state policy for the general education system of the Republic of Armenia, legal and organisational and financial and economic grounds thereof, shall regulate the legal relationships of natural and legal persons participating in the process of general education, shall ensure the grounds for the right to education, possibility of compulsory basic general education and free secondary education enshrined by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 2. Legislation of the Republic of Armenia on general education**

1. The field of general education shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On education”, “On pre-school education”, “On education of persons in need of special conditions of education”, “On state non-commercial organisations”, this Law, other laws and legal acts regulating this field.
2. 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.

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

1. The following main concepts shall be used in this Law:

(1) **general education** shall mean a process of instructing and upbringing a person, which shall be carried out through basic and supplementary programmes of pre-school, elementary, basic, and secondary education;

(2) **elementary education** shall mean the first level of compulsory education which includes the first degree of basic general education programmes;

(3) **basic education** shall mean the second level of compulsory education which includes the first and second degrees of basic general education programmes;

(4) **secondary education** shall mean the third level of general education which includes the three degrees of basic general education programmes;

(5) **state general education criteria** shall mean a regulatory document which defines the mandatory minimum of the content of basic general education programmes, the maximum volume of an educational programme, the extensive quality requirements for graduates according to educational levels, the evaluation system of learners;

(6) **general education programme (basic and supplementary)** shall mean integrity of curricula, syllabuses and forms of organisation of instruction aimed at realisation of the objectives of general education;

a. **alternative education programme** shall mean an educational programme offering a diversity of syllabuses, curricula, forms, means and methods of organisation of instruction, which ensures the results defined by the state general education criteria;

b. **copyright education programme** shall mean a type of alternative education programme which is recognised (certified) by the international standards as a copyright or is created, elaborated or introduced by certain pedagogical staff or management body (bodies);

c. **experimental education programme** shall mean an alternative education programme introduced for a definite period of time in the prescribed manner, which aims at ensuring the diversity of organisation of education, the international co-operation, identification and introduction of systems of efficient organisation of education;

d. **international education programme** shall mean an alternative education programme implemented on the basis of an intergovernmental or interagency agreement or an alternative education programme implemented in ten and more foreign countries;

(7) **general education institution** (hereinafter referred to as "the educational institution") shall mean an organisation or a subdivision thereof with a status of a legal person, which implements basic general education programme (programmes);

(8) **general education school** shall mean a type of educational institution implementing basic general education programmes through advanced instruction of one or more general, including stream or separate subjects;

(9) **specialised general education school** shall mean a type of educational institution implementing basic general education specialised programmes in any field of military science, sports, crafts, arts or science;

(10) **special general education school** shall mean a type of educational institution implementing basic general education programmes for learners in need of special conditions of education, as well as for those demonstrating anti-social behaviour;

(11) **multigrade class** shall mean an academic group which comprises learners mastering syllabuses of various grades;

(12) **pedagogical worker** shall mean a worker of an educational institution contributing to the process of mastering general education (basic, supplementary) programmes and fulfilling the requirements of subject criteria as well as contributing to and (or) ensuring the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills, abilities and development of a value system through application of instruction methods;

(13) **teacher** shall mean a pedagogical worker ensuring — through the teaching process — the mastering of syllabuses by learners at an educational institution and being directly responsible for that process;

(14) **certification of a teacher** shall mean a process of determining the compliance of teacher's knowledge, work abilities, skills with the position held, with the characteristics of qualification grade;

14.1) **training of a teacher** shall mean mastering and improvement, in training organisations, of new professional knowledge, skills and abilities in accordance with the training criteria and programmes, as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education;

14.2) **qualification grade** shall mean a qualification standard corresponding to professional knowledge and working abilities and capabilities of teachers;

(15) **textbook expertise** shall mean a process of evaluation of compliance of a textbook with state general education criteria, as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

*(Article 3 amended by HO-228-N of 10 December 2009, supplemented by HO-30-N of 22 December 2010, amended and supplemented by HO-264-N of 6 October 2011)*

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

1. The Republic of Armenia shall proclaim and guarantee the development of the field of general education as an important guarantee for ensuring the safety and sustainable development of an individual and society and maintaining the Armenian identity.

2. The base of state policy in the field of general education shall be the national school the main goal whereof is the formation of a well-rounded person upbrought in the spirit of patriotism, statehood and humanism and having a professional orientation.

3. The Republic of Armenia shall ensure the democratic and secular nature of education.

4. The basic general education shall be compulsory, except for the cases prescribed by law.

5. The secondary education shall be free at state education institutions.

6. A 12-year secondary education shall be implemented in the Republic of Armenia.

7. The organisational base of state policy in the field of general education shall be the State Programme for Educational Development.

8. Engaging in political activities or carrying out political propaganda at educational institutions shall be prohibited.

Religious activities and religious advocacy shall be prohibited at educational institutions, except for the cases prescribed by law.

9. General education in the Republic of Armenia shall be carried out in the literary Armenian language, in accordance with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On language”, except for the cases envisaged by law.

10. General education of national minorities of the Republic of Armenia may be organised in their native or national language, by compulsory teaching of the Armenian language.

***(Article 4 supplemented by HO-30-N of 22 December 2010)***

#### **Article 5. Objectives of general education and principles of state policy**

1. General education shall be aimed at intellectual, mental, physical and social development of a learner, the development of the personality thereof as a future citizen, the preparation thereof for an independent life, professional orientation and professional education.

2. In the field of general education the State shall guarantee the ensuring of the following principles:

(1) humanitarian nature of general education, priority of national and universal values, human life and health, free and comprehensive development of an individual, giving importance to civic consciousness, respect for an individual and rights and freedoms thereof, dignity, patriotism, diligence, responsibility, tolerance, formation of environmental outlook;

(2) equal opportunities for general education, accessibility, continuity, consequentiality and compliance with the development level, characteristics and degree of preparedness of learners;

(3) ensuring the principles of democratic management in the field of education;

(4) promotion of creative work at educational institutions, priority of individual acquisition and application by learners of analytical, critical thinking, and knowledge, as well as the priority of development of skills for the use of information technologies;

(5) continuous improvement of the quality of general education, compliance with international standards, as well as integration into the international education system;

- (6) striking a balance between the autonomy of and state supervision over educational institutions;
- (7) legal equality of educational institutions — irrespective of legal and organisational form — as well as of learners and employees therein;
- (8) mutual co-ordination between general education programmes and other educational programmes.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### ***STATE GENERAL EDUCATION CRITERIA AND GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES***

#### **Article 6. State general education criteria**

1. State general education criteria shall include the following:

- (1) educational fields and components of the content of education of basic general education programmes;
- (2) quality requirements for graduates — of basic general education programmes — according to educational degrees and educational fields;
- (3) base curriculum and main principles for the development of lists of subjects;
- (4) the forms, scale of evaluation of and registration procedure for learners.

2. The requirements for state general education criteria shall be mandatory for educational programmes and educational institutions.

3. The state general education criteria shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

4. A base curriculum shall define the standard volume of basic general education programmes according to academic years expressed in hours of lessons (class hours), including compulsory minimum hours allocated to educational fields.

5. The minimum compulsory hours allocated to educational fields at the basic school may not be less than half of the total amount of standard hours, while at the high school — less than 30% thereof.

## **Article 7. General education programmes**

1. Basic general education programmes shall be the integrity of curricula and syllabuses and forms, means and methods for the organisation of relevant instruction thereof, which shall ensure the minimum quality requirements for graduates — according to levels — defined by the state general education criteria.

2. Supplementary general education programmes shall be aimed at satisfaction of preferences and educational needs of learners outside the basic programmes. A supplementary general education programme may be implemented by an educational institution or other organisation in accordance with the statute thereof.

3. Basic general education programmes, except for pre-school programmes, shall include also the following programmes:

(1) elementary general education (general, specialised, special);

(2) basic general education (general, specialised, special);

(3) secondary general education (general, specialised, special).

General programmes of general education shall also include programmes for advanced instruction of stream or certain subjects.

4. The authorised public administration body for education shall elaborate and approve general, specialised and special state programmes of elementary, basic and secondary general education (hereinafter referred to as “state programme of general education”).

State programme of general education shall include the model curriculum, subject criteria and programmes, the list of guaranteed textbooks, other legal acts ensuring the implementation of the programme.

5. The model curriculum of state programme of general education shall comprise the following state and school components:

(1) the state component shall include the list of subjects and the hours allocated thereto;

(2) the hours allocated to the school component shall be envisaged for the implementation of advanced education programmes for stream and certain subjects and (or) the organisation of education in conformity with preferences of learners, peculiarities of an educational institution, and needs of the community. The school component shall be disposed of by an educational institution.

An educational institution implementing a state programme of general education shall approve its curriculum on the basis of the model curriculum.

6. The authorised public administration body for education may approve alternative general education basic, including experimental, copyright and international programmes which do not contradict with state general education criteria.

6.1. Educational institutions may implement international programmes and organise education in foreign languages solely upon the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The procedure for issuing an authorisation to an educational institution for organising the education in a foreign language shall be elaborated by the authorised public administration body for education and submitted thereby to the approval of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

Educational programmes in a foreign language may be implemented solely by non-state education institutions, as well as by educational institutions created by interstate and intergovernmental agreements.

Instruction of the Armenian language and subjects on Armenian studies in the Armenian language for citizens of the Republic of Armenia studying at the educational institutions referred to in this part, which implement educational programmes in a foreign language, shall be mandatory in compliance with the state general education criteria.

The maximum number of educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia referred to in this part shall be 11, out of which:

(1) two may be established as non-state education institutions in the cities of Dilijan and Jermuk and organise education on the base of at least the 6<sup>th</sup> year (from the 7<sup>th</sup> year);

(2) nine may be also established on the basis of interstate and (or) intergovernmental agreements and implement third degree general education programmes of secondary education.

The maximum number of educational institutions implementing educational programmes in the same foreign language shall be four.

The educational institutions referred to in this part may not have a branch or a subdivision.

7. Basic general education programmes shall be formed according to the principles of consequentiality and continuity. Basic general education programmes shall, according to education degrees, be classified as follows:

(1) the 1<sup>st</sup> degree — elementary;

(2) the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree — basic;

(3) the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree — secondary.

The results of mastering the general education programmes shall be summarised upon the completion of each education degree. A learner who has not mastered the previous degree of general education programme shall not be allowed to be transferred to the next degree of general education.

8. The standard term for secondary education shall be 12 years under a three-cycle system:

(1) the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle — four years, 1-4 years;

(2) the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle — five years, 5-9 years;

(3) the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle — 3 years, 10-12 years.

9. For the implementation of specialised general education programmes, educational programmes for children having demonstrated outstanding abilities, children in need of special conditions of education and alternative education programmes, the authorised public administration body for education may establish other terms.

10. Basic general education programmes may, as an integral part, include:

- (1) educational and methodical, experimental, and research works carried out by an educational institution;
- (2) measures for the professional improvement of pedagogical workers;
- (3) organisation of additional courses of general education for learners;
- (4) measures for health maintenance of learners;
- (5) food management for learners;
- (6) organised transportation of learners;
- (7) organisation of after-school education and (or) overnight accommodation of learners;
- (8) organisation of instruction, upbringing and leisure of learners at education and production facilities, sport and recreation camps.

11. The implementation of each basic general education programme (including pre-school) shall be an activity subject to licensing.

A licence for the implementation of general education programmes shall be issued by the authorised public administration body for education as prescribed by the law regulating the licensing process.

***(Article 7 amended by HO-240-N of 8 December 2010, supplemented by HO-30-N of 22 December 2010)***

### CHAPTER 3

#### ***EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS***

##### **Article 8. Types of educational institutions**

1. An educational institution shall, according to basic general education programmes implemented therein, be classified into the following types:

- (1) general education school;

(2) specialised general education school;

(3) special general education school.

2. The activities of specialised and special general education institutions and peculiarities thereof shall be established by law, the statutes thereof and other legal acts.

3. The Government of the Republic of Armenia may, in accordance with alternative general education programmes, establish another type of general education institution.

4. Another type of non-state education institution may be established upon the decision of the founder, as prescribed by law.

5. An educational institution shall, according to the degrees of implemented educational programmes, be the following:

(1) an elementary school (1-4 years),

(2) a middle school (5-9 years),

(3) a basic school (1-9 years),

(4) a high school (10-12 years),

(5) a lyceum (5-12 years),

(6) a secondary school (1-12 years).

#### **Article 9. Legal and organisational forms of educational institutions**

1. An educational institution may have any legal and organisational form established by law.

2. An educational institution may operate also within an educational complex.

3. For the purpose of ensuring free general education of learners, the Republic of Armenia, represented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, shall establish educational institutions in the legal and organisational form of state non-commercial organisations (hereinafter referred to as “the state education institution”).

4. The body authorised for state high schools referred to in point 4 of part 5 of Article 8 of this Law, shall be the authorised public administration body for education.

5. The model statutes of state education institutions shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The model statute of a non-state education institution shall be approved by the founder on the basis of the model statute approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

6. The statute of a non-state education institution shall be without prejudice to the provisions of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education” and this Law.

7. An educational institution may have a seal whereon the name of the educational institution shall be indicated.

***(Article 9 amended by HO-108-N of 13 April 2011)***

#### **Article 10. Management of an educational institution**

1. Management of the educational institution shall be carried out as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the statute of an educational institution.

2. The management of current activities of an educational institution shall be carried out by the executive body of the educational institution — the director who shall be elected (appointed) and removed from office (the powers thereof shall terminate) in the cases and as prescribed by the legislation and the statute of the educational institution.

3. The state education institution shall have a collegial management body, *i.e.* a board (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”).

4. The powers of collegial management bodies of an educational institution shall be defined by law and by the statute of the educational institution.

5. For the purpose of effective organisation of the educational activities of an educational institution, advisory bodies, *i.e.* pedagogical, parental, pupil councils, subject-related methodology units shall be established, the procedure for the establishment and the competences

whereof shall be defined by the statute of an educational institution. The statute of an educational institution may provide for other advisory bodies as well, *i.e.* board of curators and other boards.

6. The members of the pupil council shall participate in the management of an educational institution in an advisory capacity.

#### **Article 11. Powers of the Board of a state education institution and the grounds for the termination thereof**

1. The Board of a state education institution:

(1) shall elect a director as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and conclude an employment contract therewith in the name of the founder for a period of five years, early terminate the powers of the director on the basis of the expert opinion of the authorised public administration body for education in the cases and as prescribed by the legislation;

(2) shall approve the organisational structure, internal disciplinary rules of an educational institution;

(3) shall approve the development plan of an educational institution;

(4) shall discuss and approve the staff lists and payrolls of an educational institution;

(5) may establish a smaller class at the expense of additional funds of an educational institution;

(6) shall discuss the annual expenditures estimate of an educational institution, the request for budget financing for the next year and submit it to the state authorised body;

(7) shall discuss the financial statements and reports on instruction and education activities;

(8) shall decide on participating in external evaluation; consider the results of internal and external evaluation;

(9) shall supervise the implementation of the development plan of an educational institution;

(10) shall establish, as prescribed by the founder, the main directions for disposing of the profit of an educational institution;

(11) shall submit recommendations to the state authorised body in line with the field of activities, objectives and tasks of an educational institution;

(12) shall approve its rules of procedure and elect the chairperson of the Board in compliance with the statute of an institution and the procedure for the election of the Board;

(13) exercise other powers reserved thereto by law, by the founder and/or provided for in the statute of an institution.

2. The member of the Board of a state education institution shall be obliged to:

(1) take part in the meetings of the Board as prescribed by the statute of an educational institution, act in good faith — in the best interests of the child and effectiveness of the education thereof;

(2) duly fulfil the duties reserved to him or her by this Law, the statute of an educational institution and decisions (assignments) of the Board;

(3) perform the assignments, decisions of the Board and those of the authorised body submitted to him or her, that derive from the statutory objectives of an educational institution.

3. The powers of a member of the Board of a state education institution shall be terminated in case of:

(1) submitting a personal request thereon;

(2) a justified recall by the body having authorised the member;

(3) a substantiated recommendation, upon the decision of the Board;

(4) failing to attend at least three meetings of the Board within one year;

(5) being declared, through a judicial procedure, as having no active legal capacity or as missing or having limited active legal capacity;

(6) liquidation or reorganisation of an educational institution;

(7) his or her death.

4. The powers of a member of the Board may not be terminated on the grounds referred to in the points 1-4 of part 3 of this Article, where a competition for the vacant position of the director is intended to be held within the following three months.

#### **Article 12. Director of the educational institution and the competences thereof**

1. The director of a state education institution shall be elected upon a competition procedure approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. A person having attended the training under the procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and having been granted with the right (certificate) to manage an educational institution, may participate in the competition announced for the vacant position of a director.

2. A person who has higher education and at least seven years of total working experience for pedagogical, scientific-pedagogical work or in the field of education management during the last ten years, may attend a training to be granted with the right (certificate) to manage an educational institution.

3. Training and certification shall be conducted according to the following stages:

(1) recognition of compliance of documents in accordance with the list of documents prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education;

(2) organisation of instructions upon the initiative of the applicant;

(3) examination through testing and interview;

(4) certification of the right to manage an educational institution for a period of five years.

4. Procedures for training, examinations and certification, as well as the procedure for the establishment of and the rules of procedure for the authorised certification body shall be established by the authorised public administration body for education.

5. The training shall be organised twice during the year.

6. The announcement on training shall be published not later than one month prior to holding examinations, through press with a print run of at least three thousand copies and other means of mass media.

7. The content of training shall be developed for the purpose of building and strengthening administrative, pedagogical, psychological knowledge and practical skills and those on methodology of instruction in the field of education.

8. After the training, the person, who has passed the examination in the prescribed manner, shall be recognised as having been granted with a certificate of the right to manage an educational institution.

9. The list of certified persons shall be published.

10. Results of the examination may be appealed against through a judicial procedure or with the authorised public administration body for education in accordance with the procedure established by the authorised public administration body for education.

11. A person, who has attended training and has been granted a certificate of the right to manage an educational institution, may participate in a competition held for the vacant position of a director during five years from the date of being granted the certificate.

12. For the purpose of participating in a competition for the vacant position of a director, a candidate to the director shall submit to the Board the following:

(1) the documents complying with the prescribed list;

(2) the certificate of the right to manage an educational institution;

(3) his or her school development programme.

13. For the purpose of testing the practical management skills of a candidate to the director, the Board shall hold an interview on the basis of the questionnaires defined by the authorised public administration body for education.

14. The director of an educational institution, who has won the competition and concluded a contract with the Board in the prescribed manner, shall hold office until the expiry of the powers thereof, irrespective of the expiry of the five-year period of the certificate on the right to manage an educational institution.

15. A person, who has been granted with a certificate on the right to manage an educational institution, may, until the expiry of the period of the certificate, apply for and attend the training

referred to in part 3 of this Article and be granted a new certificate on the right to manage an educational institution.

16. The director of an educational institution shall be responsible for the organisation of instruction and education process in compliance with the state educational and subject criteria for general education, for the health maintenance of learners, recruitment of personnel, observation of the requirements of the Labour Code of the Republic of Armenia, as well as for the fulfilment of other obligations prescribed by the statute of the educational institution.

17. A person may not be nominated for and elected (appointed) as a director of an educational institution, who:

(1) in case of state education institutions — has not been granted a certificate on the right to manage an educational institution, as prescribed by parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this Article;

(2) has been declared as having no or limited active legal capacity, through a judicial procedure;

(3) has been deprived of — through a judicial procedure — the right to engage in pedagogical or administrative activities;

(4) suffers from a disease that may impede the implementation of pedagogical or administrative activities. The list of these diseases shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;

(5) has been convicted of a crime, and the conviction has not been cancelled or expired, with the exception of cases when convicted of committing an unintentional crime.

18. The director of an educational institution shall:

(1) submit to the consideration of the Board the financial statement, the statement of information on the results of internal and external evaluation, the request for budgetary funding for the next year;

(2) manage the pedagogical board of the educational institution; assist the activities of advisory bodies of the educational institution;

(3) draw up the staff list and expenditures estimate of the educational institution and submit — upon the approval by the Board of the institution — to the state authorised body;

- (4) submit the development plan of the educational institution to the approval of the Board;
- (5) exercise other powers reserved to him or her by law or statute of the educational institution.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### ***IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS***

#### **Article 13. Educational programmes of an educational institution**

1. An educational institution may implement an educational programme(s) on the basis of a relevant licence, in accordance with its statute. General education programmes implemented by an educational institution shall be enshrined by its statute.
2. An educational institution may, upon the decision of the founder, implement the educational programme through day-time, after-school and/or boarding-school procedures.

#### **Article 14. Curricula**

1. The educational process in the educational institution shall be organised in conformity with the state general education criteria and the annual curriculum of the educational institution.
2. An individual curriculum shall be drawn up for each general education programme implemented in the educational institution, in conformity with the requirements of the state general education criteria.
3. The educational institution implementing general education programmes shall draw up its curricula on the basis of model curricula. The educational institution shall distribute the number of hours referred to in the school component of model curriculum, according to school subjects, defined by the state component or guaranteed by the authorised public administration body for education.

4. The educational institution may, on a paid basis, implement supplementary programmes for general and/or professional education, as well as other services, in conformity with its statute and as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The participation of learners in supplementary paid classes shall be voluntary and shall be implemented on the basis of a contract concluded between the educational institution and the parent, the model form whereof shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education.

### **Article 15. Academic year**

1. The academic year shall begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.
2. The academic year shall consist of academic weeks, examination periods and holidays.
3. The number of academic weeks shall be determined on the basis of the provision of annual number of hours defined by the core curriculum.
4. The duration of a five- or six-day academic week in the state education institution shall be defined by the educational institution, and in the non-state education institution — by the founder thereof. The educational institution shall co-ordinate this issue with the authorised public administration body for education at least within a 15-day period.
5. Examination periods may be established during the academic year. The periods and the procedure for holding state final examinations shall be defined by the authorised public administration body for education.
6. Autumn, winter, spring and winter holidays shall be provided during the academic year, in conformity with the requirements of the state general education criteria. The periods and duration of holidays in a state education institution shall be defined by the authorised public administration body for education, and in a non-state education institution — by the founder thereof, keeping the authorised public administration body informed thereon.

## **Article 16. Admission, moving up, transfer and removal of learners**

1. Admission of learners to an educational institution shall be carried out upon the order of the director, on the basis of the application of the parent of a school age child or the legal representative (hereinafter referred to as “the parent”) thereof and the contract concluded between the educational institution and the parent, as prescribed by this Law and the statute of the educational institution. The model contract for state education institutions shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education.
2. The children, who have reached or will reach the age of six on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the given calendar year inclusive, shall be admitted to the first year of the educational institution. Admission of children of younger age to an educational institution shall be prohibited.
3. Examination of knowledge of a child during the admission to the first year of general education school shall be prohibited.
4. Admission of children in need of special conditions of education to an educational institution shall be carried out in conformity with the legislation regulating the field of education.
5. The parent shall be responsible for the enrollment of a school age child in an educational institution, as prescribed by law.
6. The educational institution, local self-government and territorial administration bodies shall ensure the enrollment of a school age child in an educational institution.
7. The education of children enrolled in general education later than the established period, shall be organised as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.
8. The transfer and removal of a learner from an educational institution to other educational institutions shall be carried out under the procedure approved by the authorised public administration body for education, in the following cases:
  - (1) on the basis of the parent’s application;
  - (2) on the basis of the criminal judgment of the court, entered into force.

9. The removal of a learner enrolled in a non-state education institution, a specialised general education school or in an alternative programme or the transfer of a learner to other educational institutions may also be carried out in the case the learner or his or her parent fails to comply with the contractual provisions agreed between the parent and the educational institution concerned.

10. The procedure for final examination or certification of mastering by learners the educational programme, for moving up and graduation of learners shall be defined by the authorised public administration body for education.

The learner, who has not mastered the previous level of the general education programme or the programme of the given academic year, shall not be allowed to pass to the next level or grade of general education, except for the cases provided for in part 11 of this Article.

11. The issue of moving up of a learner, who has been absent for 120-200 hours during the academic year, to the next grade or next level of general education shall be determined in accordance with the relevant procedure defined by the authorised public administration body for education, in the following cases:

(1) by the pedagogical council of the given educational institution — in case of failure to participate in the educational programme of the first and second degree of secondary education;

(2) by the authorised public administration body for education, upon the proposal of the pedagogical council of the given educational institution — in case of failure to participate in the educational programme of the third degree of secondary education.

In the cases provided for by this part, a learner, whereon a decision have been taken with a positive result, shall take an examination in five subjects planned in the curriculum, upon the decision of the pedagogical council of the educational institution.

In case the learner fails the examination, no decision is taken on moving up or in case of absence for more than 200 hours, the learner shall repeat the programme of the given year prescribed by the curriculum.

***(Article 16 supplemented and edited by HO-128-N of 14 April 2011)***

## **Article 17. Organisation of educational process**

1. The educational process in an educational institution shall be organised in the form of group or individual instruction.

2. Academic groups — the classes, shall be formed according to the age of learners and the results of mastering the educational programme thereby. Multigrade classes may be formed as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

The procedure for the formation of a class of an educational institution shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The lesson shall be the main form of organisation of group learning in an educational institution. The duration of the lesson shall be defined by the state general education criteria.

The class may be divided into groups during the class hours of separate subjects, as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

Group learning may also be organised in educational and practical facilities, experimental facilities as well as sports and health camps.

4. The procedure for the organisation of individual learning of learners shall be established by the public administration body for education.

5. The education of children in need of special conditions of education in a general education school shall be carried out by the principle of inclusive education.

6. Textbooks and manuals, which have undergone expert examination and guaranteed as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education, shall be used in educational institutions upon the choice of the educational institution.

7. For the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the organisation of education, the educational institution shall provide the learners, their parents, pedagogical workers and other persons engaged in the educational process of the educational institution concerned with advisory services supporting education, i.e. information, psychological, social-pedagogical, special pedagogical, methodical, health services, etc. The procedure for the organisation of specialised educational support shall be established by the public administration body for education.

### **Article 18. Evaluation and Certification of Learners**

1. Current and final (semi-annual and annual) evaluation of learning performance of learners and the choice of forms, methods, frequency of that evaluation and contents of tasks shall be made by the educational institution, in accordance with the state general education criteria and other regulatory legal acts.
2. A verification of conformity of students with the requirements of the state general education criteria shall be carried out upon the completion of elementary, basic and secondary general education programmes (state final certification).
3. Graduates of educational institutions shall be granted graduation documents. The forms of graduation documents shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### ***PARTICIPANTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS***

### **Article 19. Participants of the educational process in educational institutions**

1. Participants of the educational process in educational institutions shall be:
  - (1) learners,
  - (2) parents of learners,
  - (3) teachers and other pedagogical workers,
  - (4) administrative workers,
  - (5) representatives of the state authorised body for education, territorial administration bodies and local self-government bodies and other persons included in the council and advisory bodies.

### **Article 20. Rights and responsibilities of learners**

1. Learners shall have equal rights and responsibilities at educational institutions. Those rights and responsibilities shall be defined by law and the statute of the educational institution.

2. A learner shall have the right to:

- (1) receive education compatible with the state general education criteria;
- (2) choose — upon the consent of the parent — the educational institution and the form of instruction, the stream inside the educational institution concerned and receive paid educational services;
- (3) have free access to educational and material base of the educational institution;
- (4) participate in internal and external school events;
- (5) be protected from any physical and psychological pressure, exploitation, actions or inaction of pedagogical and other workers, that violate the rights of the learner and infringe upon their honour and dignity;
- (6) participate in the management of the educational institution as prescribed by the statute of the educational institution;
- (7) freely search for and have access to any information, except for the cases prescribed by law;
- (8) freely express his or her opinion and convictions;
- (9) benefit from other rights specified by law and the statute of the educational institution.

3. A learner shall be obliged to:

- (1) comply with the requirements of the statute and internal disciplinary rules of the educational institution;
- (2) receive knowledge compatible with the state general education criteria, acquire and possess of corresponding skills and abilities, satisfy the requirements for the established system of values;
- (3) attend and participate in classes;
- (4) perform other duties specified by law and the statute of the educational institution.

## **Article 21. Disciplinary penalties on learners**

1. The discipline in educational institutions shall be ensured as prescribed by law, as well as the statute and internal disciplinary rules of the educational institution.

2. In case of failure to observe or improper observance of the internal disciplinary rules of an educational institution, the following disciplinary penalties may be applied on the learners of secondary and high schools, as prescribed by this Law and the statute of the educational institution:

(1) reprimand,

(2) severe reprimand.

3. If the learner has not committed a new disciplinary offence and has acted as a *bona fide*, an exemplary and disciplined learner within one year after the date of imposing a disciplinary penalty, the disciplinary penalty may be cancelled.

4. If the disciplinary penalty referred to in point 2 of part 2 of this Article is repeatedly applied on the same learner within one academic year, the educational institution may:

(1) recommend the parent to transfer the learner to another educational institution;

(2) apply to the state authorised body in the field of social assistance to organise a social support service for the child.

5. If a learner of a non-state education institution, specialised general education school or alternative instruction system or the parent thereof has not complied with the contractual requirements, or the learner has failed to meet the minimum requirements for the mastering of the content and volume of education, the educational institution concerned may unilaterally terminate the contract, by giving a 10 day prior notice thereon to the parent.

6. The parent shall be responsible for frequent absence by a learner from classes without good reason, as prescribed by law.

## **Article 22. Health maintenance of learners**

1. An educational institution shall ensure secure and safe conditions for the implementation of the educational programme, normal work regime, medical aid and support, necessary conditions for physical development and building up the health of learners, shall form individual skills for personal hygiene and healthy lifestyle in accordance with the procedure established by the authorised public administration body in the field of health care.

2. For the purpose of maintaining health and preventing problems of mental and physical development, and health rehabilitation of learners, each learner shall at least once a year undergo a medical (preventive) examination by the medical support service of the educational institution, and in case it is impossible — by the territorial health care organisation at the expense of the State Budget.

### **Article 23. Incentives for learners**

1. The educational institution, the founder thereof, the authorised public administration body for education, the territorial administration bodies and local self-government bodies, social partners, organisations and individuals may establish forms of moral and material incentives for learners, such as certificates of appreciation, certificates of merit, monetary awards or other forms specified by the statute of the educational institution.

### **Article 24. Pedagogical workers**

1. The name list of positions of pedagogical workers of an educational institution, the description, and qualification grades thereof, as well as the procedures for their admission to, removal from office, granting pension and organisation of medical examination shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The person shall not be entitled to occupy the position of a pedagogical worker, if he or she:

(1) has been declared — through a judicial procedure — as having no or limited active legal capacity;

(2) has been deprived of the right to engage in pedagogical or administrative activities through a judicial procedure;

(3) suffers from a disease that may impede the implementation of pedagogical activities. The list of such diseases shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;

(4) has been convicted of a crime, and the conviction has not been cancelled or expired, except for the cases when convicted of committing unintentional crime.

3. When a vacancy for a teacher opens-up in a state education institution, it shall be filled on a competition basis in accordance with the model procedure on competition established by the authorised public administration body for education and with the statute of the educational institution, except for the cases of a candidate with intended reference that has received professional education.

#### **Article 25. Working time and pedagogical term of service of the workers of an educational institution**

1. The particulars of the work regime and leisure of workers of educational institutions shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The pedagogical term of service of pedagogical and administrative workers of an educational institution shall be calculated as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The full academic workload (volume of teaching) of a teacher in a state education institution shall not exceed 22 class hours per week.

4. An administrative worker of a state education institution may, in case of holding the required qualification, have pluralistically an academic workload of up to eight class hours per week.

#### **Article 26. Teachers; their training, certification, and granting of qualification grades**

*(Heading edited by HO-264-N of 6 October 2011)*

1. A teacher at an educational institution may be the person who has obtained corresponding pedagogical qualification (with an educational degree of a bachelor, master, degreed specialist)

or has a higher education and at least five years of term of service of pedagogical (or teaching) activities for the last ten years.

2. The State shall hold regular certification of teachers, once in every five years for every teacher, for the determination of compliance of a teacher with the job description of the position occupied in the given educational institution. Prior to the expiry of the defined time limit, a teacher may, upon his or her own initiative and own expenses, undergo training and apply for certification, but not earlier than one year after the regular certification.

3. Each year one fifth of the teachers of an educational institution shall be subject to certification according to the timetable approved by the educational institution.

4. The certification of teachers shall be held by a simple procedure through documental certification (hereinafter referred to as “the certification”) by the territorial commission on certification of teachers (hereinafter referred to as “the certification commission”). The formation and rules of procedure of the certification commission of teachers shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

5. The procedures for the certification, training of a teacher and for granting thereto a qualification grade shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, and the procedure for the formation of the list of guaranteed organisations that provide training to teachers subject to certification, shall be defined by the authorised public administration body for education.

6. A director shall draw up and approve, for each year, the list of teachers subject to regular certification in the given year and submit it to the certification commission in accordance with the procedure defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

7. Teachers subject to regular certification shall be informed of the time period of holding documental certification not later than three months before [certification].

8. Teachers subject to regular certification shall, on a mandatory basis, initially undergo training at the expense of the educational institution, in compliance with the training criteria established by the authorised public administration body for education.

9. An educational institution shall individually select the institution that trains teachers subject to certification, from the list of training organisations guaranteed by the authorised public administration body.

10. At least one month prior to certification, the director shall submit to the certification commission the performance description of the teacher and the statement of information on the credit scores earned by the teacher, with the documents substantiating them. A teacher may submit also other written descriptions issued by advisory bodies of the given educational institution. The complete list of documents to be submitted for the certification of a teacher shall be defined by the authorised public administration body.

11. A performance description of a teacher shall include biographical data of a teacher, a substantiated evaluation of his or her practical skills, human qualities, professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills, as well as of the results of work activities of a teacher.

12. The nominal list, criteria and the minimum quantity of credit scores to be earned by a teacher shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education.

13. The director shall familiarise the teacher subject to certification with the content of the package of documents to be submitted to the certification commission, provide their copies and inform on the general procedure for the certification prior to submission to the certification commission.

14. The certification of a teacher shall be carried out on the basis of documents submitted in conformity with the list prescribed by point 10 of this Article.

15. The teacher undergoing certification shall have the right to be present at the discussion of the issue on his or her compliance with the position occupied thereby and at the decision making process.

16. The certification commission shall, in respect of each teacher, adopt, by a majority of votes, one of the following decisions:

(1) is competent for the position occupied;

(2) is not competent for the position occupied.

17. The certification commission shall, within a period of two days, submit the decision, with the substantiations, adopted thereby to the respective educational institution and to the authorised public administration body for education both of which shall ensure its publication. The educational institution shall, on the day of receiving the decision, inform thereon to the given teacher.

18. The decision of the certification commission may, within a period of five days, be appealed against with the authorised public administration body or through judicial procedure. After consideration of the appeals, the authorised public administration body for education shall submit to the certification commission a recommendation on the repeat review of the issue of compliance of the given teacher with the position occupied, or on leaving the decision unchanged. The procedure for the appeals shall be established by a relevant procedure.

19. The decision of the certification commission shall be a basis for holding the position or removal from the position occupied by the teacher.

20. Based on point 2 of part 16 of this Article, the director of an educational institution shall, within a period of ten days following the receipt of the decision, remove from office the teacher not compliant with the position occupied, unless the decision of the certification commission has been appealed against within the time limit set by point 18 of this Article. The vacant position of a teacher shall be filled as prescribed by Article 24(3) of this Law.

21. Where the decision of the certification commission is appealed against, the removal of a teacher shall be postponed till the adoption of a final decision.

22. In case of being not compliant with the position occupied in the given educational institution, a person shall not be deprived of the right to engage in pedagogical activities.

23. A teacher may, upon his or her own initiative, undergo certification, if he or she has individually earned respective credit scores, has a performance description, two years of pedagogical term of service, at least one year of which in the given educational institution.

24. The following group of teachers shall not be subject to certification:

(1) teachers occupying the position concerned for a period of less than one year;

(2) teachers who are pregnant and are on leave for taking care of a child under the age of three, unless they have submitted such application.

25. Teachers, who are pregnant and are on leave for taking care of a child under the age of three, shall be subject to certification not earlier than one year after returning from the leave, unless they have submitted an application on undergoing the certification earlier.

26. Teachers, subject to certification, but who are on leave, on secondment, or declared as temporarily incapable to work, shall be subject to certification within a period of four months after appearing to work.

27. In case of changes in the education policy, the authorised public administration body may organise extraordinary mandatory training for teachers at the expense of the State Budget or other funds.

28. A teacher having undergone certification may, upon his or her initiative, participate in the process of granting a teacher qualification grade. The teacher qualification grade is a four-degree grade and is granted based on the principle of gradation.

29. A teacher may apply for being granted and raised in the qualification grade as follows:

(1) for obtaining a second degree qualification grade — at least two years after obtaining the first degree qualification grade;

(2) for obtaining a third degree qualification grade — at least three years after obtaining the second degree qualification grade;

(3) for obtaining a fourth degree qualification grade — at least four years after obtaining the third degree qualification grade.

30. A decision on granting a qualification grade to a teacher shall be adopted by a simple procedure on a documental basis by the Republican Commission on Granting Qualification Grades of Teachers (hereinafter referred to as “the Republican Commission”). The procedure for the establishment and the rules of procedure of the Republican Commission shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

31. The characteristics of qualification grades of a teacher shall be defined by the public administration body for education on the basis of knowledge, extent of pedagogical working skills

and abilities, effectiveness of creative and research activities, term of service of professional work of the teacher and other qualitative indicators of pedagogical activities thereof (including awarding, participation in relevant competitions, trainings aimed at professional improvement, etc.).

32. In case there emerges a need for the evaluation of knowledge of a teacher, the given teacher may, upon his or her initiative, undergo an evaluation of his or her knowledge in the organisation guaranteed by the authorised public administration body.

33. The Republican Commission shall, on the basis of the results of documental certification, take one of the following decisions:

- (1) subject to granting the respective qualification grade;
- (2) not subject to granting the respective qualification grade.

34. The decision of the Republican Commission may be appealed against with the authorised public administration body for education or through judicial procedure.

35. A decision of the Republican Commission shall serve as a basis for the public administration body for education to grant a respective qualification grade and provide additional payment.

36. A teacher having been granted a qualification grade shall be provided with a respective additional payment at the expense of the funds allocated to the educational institution, as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

37. In case of an appeal, the granting of a grade to a teacher shall be postponed till the adoption of a final decision.

38. A qualification grade shall be granted for a term of five years, the validity whereof shall be early terminated, if the teacher has failed to comply with the position occupied after certification.

39. The qualification grade of a teacher being transferred from one educational institution to another shall be preserved if the teacher has been recognised, after certification, as compliant with the position occupied in the given educational institution. The right of a teacher to additional payment for the qualification grade shall be reinstated from the day of certification.

*(Article 26 amended by HO-228-N of 10 December 2009, edited by HO-264-N of 6 October 2011)*

**Article 27. Rights and responsibilities of pedagogical workers**

1. The pedagogical worker shall have the right to:

(1) participate in the management of the educational institution, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the statute of the educational institution;

(2) elect and be elected for relevant positions and in relevant management bodies;

(3) participate in the discussion and settlement of issues relating to the activities of the educational institution;

(4) appeal against the orders, decisions and executive orders of management bodies of the educational institution, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

(5) submit proposals on the improvement of subject criteria, programmes, and textbooks;

(6) have access to the services of library, information databases of the educational institution, in accordance with the statute of the educational institution;

(7) select and apply such teaching methods and means that ensure high quality of educational process by using, at his or her choice, textbooks and instructive materials, manuals and evaluation methods for knowledge, skills and abilities of learners, guaranteed by the authorised public administration body for education;

(8) be protected from activities of learners, pedagogical and other workers, which humiliate his or her professional rating and dignity;

(9) have organisational capacities and logistics for carrying out professional activities;

(10) establish organisations, trade unions for the protection of his or her interests or join them, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

(11) develop and implement plan for classes, thematic units, in accordance with the state general education criteria;

- (12) participate in trainings, conferences, discussions and hearings;
- (13) apply for undergoing extraordinary certification or obtaining relevant qualification grade;
- (14) benefit from rights, powers reserved thereto and incentives specified by laws and the statute of the educational institution.

2. The pedagogical worker shall be obliged to:

- (1) respect and protect the rights and freedoms, honour and dignity of the learner;
- (2) contribute to the exercise of the right to education of a child taking into account the peculiarities of educational needs of each child;
- (3) contribute to the process of mastering the general education (basic and supplementary) programmes by learners and ensuring the subject criteria at the educational institution, as well as to the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills through application of instruction methods, to the formation of a system of values; implement general education programmes;
- (4) ensure the mastering by learners of minimum mandatory of the content of programmes provided for by the state general education criteria by applying more effective teaching methods and modern technologies;
- (5) consistently improve his or her subject-related and professional knowledge and skills, carry out creative and research activities;
- (6) co-operate with parents in respect of issues of organising the education of children and family education;
- (7) co-operate with partners for the purpose of exchanging experience and increasing the effectiveness of professional activities;
- (8) comply with the requirements defined by the statute, internal legal acts and disciplinary rules of the educational institution;
- (9) develop proper behaviour and conduct, upbringing patriotism in learners;
- (10) develop independence, initiative and creative skills in learners.

3. The educational institution, the founder thereof, the authorised public administration body for education, territorial administration and local self-government bodies, social partners, organisations, individuals may provide for moral and material incentives for pedagogical workers — certificates of appreciation, certificates of merit, monetary awards or other forms specified in the statute of the educational institution.

#### **Article 28. Rights and responsibilities of the learner's parent**

1. The learner's parent shall have the right to:

- (1) choose the educational institution and form of education for the instruction of a child;
- (2) co-operate with pedagogical workers of the educational institution in respect of issues of organising the education of his or her child;
- (3) apply to relevant authorities with regard to issues of development, instruction and upbringing of the child;
- (4) protect his or her legal interests or those of his or her child at relevant bodies;
- (5) participate in the process of implementation of general education programmes and assessment of the effectiveness thereof;
- (6) take part in the internal evaluation of the educational institution;
- (7) participate in the management of an educational institution, as prescribed by the statute of the educational institution.

The learner's parent shall have other rights established by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and other legal acts.

2. The learner's parent shall be obliged to:

- (1) ensure for a child appropriate conditions in the family aimed at receiving education;
- (2) take permanent care for physical health and mental conditions of a child, create relevant conditions for the development of inclinations and abilities, satisfaction of educational needs of a child;

- (3) respect the dignity of the child, upbringing diligence, kindness, friendship, tolerance, compassion, respect towards family, elderly people, state and native language, national traditions and customs;
- (4) upbringing respect towards national, historical, cultural values and mother land, care towards historical and cultural wealth and environment, tolerance towards other nations and cultures;
- (5) upbringing respect towards the educational institution and pedagogical workers;
- (6) bring the child to the educational institution within the time limits specified in Articles 15 and 16 of this Law;
- (7) compensate for the damage incurred to the educational institution by him or her, as well as the child thereof;
- (8) prevent the learner from using tobacco, alcoholic beverages, psychotropic substances, weapons and ammunition, toxic substances, explosives as well as other substances prohibited by law and the statute of the educational institution.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### ***MANAGEMENT BODIES OF GENERAL EDUCATION AND THE COMPETENCES THEREOF***

#### **Article 29. Competences of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the field of general education**

1. Competences of the Government of the Republic of Armenia shall be the following:

- (1) implement state policy in the field of general education;
- (2) approve the procedure for the development and approval of the state general education criteria;
- (3) approve the state general education criteria;
- (4) establish educational institutions;
- (5) approve the model statutes of state education institutions;

- (6) approve the procedure for the election (appointment) of the director of a state education institution;
- (7) approve the list of diseases impeding the implementation of pedagogical or administrative activities;
- (8) establish the procedure for the formation of classes in the state education institution;
- (9) approve the forms of graduation documents for the basic and secondary education;
- (10) establish the name list of positions, the description thereof, qualification grades, procedure for admission to office, removal from office, granting pensions, organisation of medical examination of pedagogical workers of the educational institution;
- (11) establish the particulars of the regime of work and leisure of workers of the educational institution;
- (12) establish the procedure for the certification of a teacher of the educational institution;
- (13) establish the procedures for the certification of and granting qualification grades to teachers, establishment of territorial and Republican Commissions and their rules of procedures;
- (14) establish the procedure for providing additional payments to pedagogical workers who have received qualification through certification;
- (15) approve the standards for internal and external evaluation of activities of an educational institution and the implementation procedure thereof;
- (16) establish the procedure for financing educational institutions from the State Budget;
- (17) establish requirements and standards to non-state education institutions eligible for financing from the State Budget;
- (18) establish the procedure for tender for additional financing of educational institutions;
- (19) exercise other powers as prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 29 amended by HO-228-N of 10 December 2009)***

**Article 30. Powers of the authorised public administration body for education in the field of general education**

1. The powers of the authorised public administration body for education shall be as follows:

- (1) to develop and approve state general education programmes, general education alternative, including experimental, copyright and basic international programmes;
- (2) to establish the time limits for the implementation of specialised general education programmes, programmes for children having demonstrated outstanding abilities, programmes for children in need of special conditions of education and alternative education programmes;
- (3) to grant licences for the implementation of general education programmes;
- (4) to give consent for the establishment of other types of non-state education institutions as prescribed by law;
- (5) to be considered as the authorised body for state high schools;
- (6) to establish the procedure for the formation of the collegial management body, i.e. the council of a state education institution;
- (7) to provide an expert opinion on the early termination of powers of the director of a state education institution;
- (8) to establish the list of the guaranteed textbooks;
- (9) to give consent for setting a five-day or six-day academic week at state education institutions;
- (10) to establish the time periods and the duration of holidays at state education institutions;
- (11) to establish the time periods of and the procedure for conducting state final examinations;
- (12) to establish the model contracts concluded between a state education institution and a parent;
- (13) to establish the procedure for enrolling school age children in general education;
- (14) to establish the procedure for organising the education of children enrolled in general education later than the time period prescribed;

- (15) to develop and approve the procedure for carrying out the final examination or certification of mastering of educational programmes by learners of the educational institution, as well as the procedure for the moving up and graduation of a learner;
- (16) to organise final certification and decide on the compliance of graduates of an educational institution with the requirements of the state general education criteria;
- (17) to approve the procedure for transferring a learner from one educational institution to another educational institution and that for removing a learner;
- (18) to establish the procedures for forming a multigrade class and for splitting the class into groups during specific class hours;
- (19) to approve the procedures for organisation of general education programmes through individual instruction of learners, as well as through external studies;
- (20) to ensure the development, expertise and publishing of forms of syllabuses, textbooks, manuals and school registers;
- (21) to develop and approve the model procedure for announcing a competition for the vacant position of a teacher of an educational institution;
- (22) to define the requirements for the content of training of pedagogical workers and director; to give consent to training programmes for teachers;
- (23) to exercise supervision over and state inspection of educational institutions and carry out assessment of the activities thereof; to publish the rating list of educational institutions;
- (24) to take part in the external evaluation of an educational institution;
- (25) to approve the procedures for the organisation and conduct of republican subject-related olympiads, contests, strategic games, sports games and professional contests for pedagogical workers, as well as the statutes thereof;
- (26) to recommend allocating, on a competitive basis, additional targeted financing to an educational institution from the State Budget;
- (27) to exercise other powers as prescribed by this Law, laws of the Republic of Armenia and decisions of the Government.

***(Article 30 supplemented by HO-128-N of 14 April 2011)***

**Article 31. The competences of the territorial administration body and of the Mayor of Yerevan in the sphere of general education**

1. The competences of the marzpet [regional governor] (of the mayor — in the city of Yerevan) shall be as follows:

(1) to ensure the implementation of state educational policy in the territory of the marz [region] (in the city of Yerevan);

(2) to supervise the compliance of educational institutions with the legislation on education of the Republic of Armenia and the regulatory acts adopted by the authorised public administration body for education, as well as the implementation of educational programmes in conformity with the state general education criteria;

(3) to coordinate and supervise the registration of school age children and ensure their enrollment in educational institutions;

(4) to ensure the construction, exploitation and maintenance of buildings transferred to educational institutions under the right of use;

(5) to carry out the certification of the director and pedagogical workers of the state education institution as prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;

(6) to assist the process of evaluation or testing of the knowledge of learners and graduates of educational institutions;

(7) to exercise other powers established by laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia.

**Article 32. Powers of local self-government bodies in the field of general education**

1. The powers of the head of the community shall be as follows:

(1) to assist the implementation of state educational policy in the territory of the community, as prescribed by law;

(2) to carry out the registration of school-age children; to ensure the enrollment thereof in educational institutions;

(3) to exercise other powers as prescribed by laws of the Republic of Armenia.

### **Article 33. Supervision over the activities of an educational institution**

1. The supervision over the activities of an educational institution shall be exercised by the founder, the authorised public administration body for education, as well as other public administration bodies provided for by law.

2. State supervision over the compliance with the legislation in the field of education in an educational institution shall be exercised by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On State Inspectorate for Education”.

### **Article 34. Evaluation of the activities of an educational institution**

1. An internal and external evaluation shall be made for the activities of an educational institution, the standards and the procedure for the performance whereof shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

2. Internal evaluation shall be the analysis of its own activities carried out by an educational institution.

Internal evaluation shall be carried out once a year until the beginning of new academic year.

Administrative and pedagogical workers, learners and parents shall participate in the internal evaluation.

3. The director shall submit the internal evaluation report to the board of the educational institution, parental, pupil and other existing boards by the 5<sup>th</sup> of September of the current year, as well as ensure the publication thereof.

4. The purpose of the external evaluation of an educational institution shall be the evaluation of effectiveness of the activities thereof, as compared to other similar institutions. External evaluation standards shall be uniform for all educational institutions.

5. External evaluation shall be carried out with the knowledge of the educational institution, by an independent organisation.
6. Parents, learners, authorised public and local administration bodies for education, representatives of a local self-government body and of an educational institution shall participate in the external evaluation.
7. External evaluation of an educational institution shall be carried out on the basis of the quality of educational services provided to the learner and the compliance of graduates with the requirements of the state general education criteria.
8. The results of inspections carried out by the authorised public administration body for education shall be used during external evaluation.
9. Average statistical data indicators of educational institutions shall be the basis for the quality assessment of educational services.
10. The level of compliance of graduates with the requirements of the state general education criteria shall be determined by the results of the final certification organised by the authorised public administration body for education.
11. The authorised public administration body for education shall publish the rating list of educational institutions upon the results of external evaluation.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### ***ECONOMIC GROUNDS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL EDUCATION SYSTEM***

#### **Article 35. Financing of an educational institution**

1. Financial means of educational institutions shall generate from the State Budget and other resources not prohibited by the legislation.
2. The procedure for financing educational institutions from the State Budget shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

3. Financing of an educational institution from the State Budget shall be carried out according to the implemented general education programmes depending on the number of learners. Non-state education institution shall be financed from the State Budget where complying with the requirements and the standards established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

4. Educational institutions may, on a competitive basis, receive from the State Budget additional financing for the following purposes:

(1) to implement special or supplementary educational programmes for the children having demonstrated outstanding abilities;

(2) to carry out educational and methodical scientific experiment and (or) to implement an alternative programme;

(3) to organise preparatory meetings and courses for international olympiads of school-children;

(4) to develop educational and methodical manuals and instruction materials (including in electronic form).

An educational institution may, on a competitive basis, receive additional financing from the State Budget also for other purposes upon the proposal of the authorised public administration body for education.

The procedure for additional financing shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

5. A non-state education institution implementing general education programmes as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, may organise its educational services on a paid basis, as well as charge from learners tuition fees, pursuant to the statute of the educational institution concerned.

6. Additional salary shall be set for pedagogical workers of state education institutions in the settlements of borderline, highland and mountainous areas of the Republic of Armenia, pursuant to the law on the State Budget of the given year, but not less than the amount provided for by the State Budget of the current year.

***(Article 35 amended by HO-228-N of 10 December 2009)***

### **Article 36. Entrepreneurial activities of an educational institution**

1. An educational institution may be engaged in entrepreneurial activities only in the cases and in respect of the types of activities provided for by law or directly stipulated by the decision of the founder. An educational institution may be engaged in the types of activities subject to licensing only on the basis of a licence.
2. The profit arising from the activities of a state education institution shall be used for the achievement of objectives provided for by the statute thereof. The procedure for using the profit of the educational institution shall be established by the founder.
3. The supervision over the financial and economic activities of an educational institution shall be exercised as prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Armenia.

### **Article 37. State guarantees for general education**

1. The State shall guarantee relevant annual budgetary allocations to the needs of the activities of state education institutions within the system of general education.
2. State financing shall be the basis for the state guarantee for receiving general education to the extent of state educational standards, as prescribed by law.
3. The State shall guarantee equal legal framework for the activities of educational institutions, irrespective of the legal and organisational form thereof, in respect of activities of general education provided for by the statute.
4. The system of tax privileges prescribed by law shall apply to the implementation of basic general education programmes.

## CHAPTER 8

### *TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS*

#### **Article 38. Transitional provisions**

1. Part 6 of Article 4 and part 8 of Article 7 of this Law shall not extend to learners who have entered the first year of general education schools at the age 6,5 and older by 2006. Their education shall continue pursuant to Article 55 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education”.
2. The types of state education institutions shall be brought in line with the requirements of parts 1 and 5 of Article 8 of this Law by 2011/2012 academic year, pursuant to the timetable established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The provisions referred to in parts 1 and 2 of Article 12 of this Law shall not extend to the directors who have been elected before the entry into force of the Law, until the expiry of their powers prescribed by law. Whereas the directors, holding office on a contractual basis for an indefinite period of time, shall undergo training by 1 August 2011, receive a certificate attesting the right to management of an educational institution and participate in the competition for the election of the director in accordance with the procedure and timetable established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. An exception shall be made for the accreditation of those pedagogical workers who have received the honorary title of the Distinguished Pedagogue, and of those directors holding office on a contractual basis for an indefinite period of time who attain the age of 61 and more up to 31 December 2011 inclusive. Their accreditation shall be carried out through testing upon the procedure defined by the authorised public administration body for education. The powers of the directors having failed to receive relevant certificate or to win the competition shall terminate.
4. Article 26 of this Law shall enter into force from 1 March 2010.

5. Those teachers working at an educational institution, who do not meet the requirements prescribed by Article 26(1) of this Law, may continue their professional activities up to 20 August 2018, unless they meet the requirements set for a teacher.

6. Article 34 of this Law shall enter into force from 1 August 2012.

7. The regulatory legal acts incompatible with the provisions of this Law shall be brought in line with the requirements of this Law by 20 August 2010.

***(Article 38 supplemented by HO-146-N of 12 May 2011, edited by HO-264-N of 6 October 2011)***

### **Article 39. Final provision**

This Law shall enter into force on the tenth day following the day of the official promulgation.

**President  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**S. Sargsyan**

23 July 2009

Yerevan

HO-160-N