Most children in Tajikistan attended primary school in 2005; however, school attendance declined by a few percentage points between 2000 and 2005.

- 69% of children in primary school age 7-10 attend primary school at the appropriate age with 70% for male and 68% for female.
- Students over or under the official primary school age range make up 20% of the primary school age population.
- There is no gender disparity observed in primary attendance in Tajikistan.

The net attendance ratio (NAR) is the percentage of the official primary school-age population that attends primary school. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) is the total number of students attending primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official primary school-age population. The primary NAR does not capture those students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than the official age.

Primary Net attendance rates are slightly higher for children in rural areas than in urban areas.

- In urban areas, 67% of children of primary school age attend school, compared to 70% in rural areas.
- In urban and rural areas, female attendance rates are marginally lower than male attendance rates.

In Tajikistan, regional disparities in the primary school attendance rate are very low.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the GBAO region (71%); attendance is lowest in the Khatlon region (68%).
- There are no regional net attendance rates that vary from the national rate by more than 4 percentage points.
- Gender disparity is lowest in the Khatlon region and highest in the DRD region.
Secondary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Tajikistan

The secondary school attendance rate is as high as primary school's with approximately 70% of secondary students in the official school age range.

- 70% of youth in secondary school age 11-17 attend secondary school at the appropriate age with 78% for males and 61% for females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up 16% of the secondary school age population.
- Unlike primary school with gender parity, females are much less likely to attend secondary school than males and in 2005 than in 2000.

Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Tajikistan

At the secondary level, children in rural areas are just as likely to attend as are children in urban areas.

- In urban areas, 70% of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to 70% in rural areas.
- In urban and rural areas, women's attendance rates are 15-20 percentage points lower than men's. The disparity is more pronounced in rural areas.

Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Tajikistan

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the GBAO region (79%); attendance is lowest in the DRD region (67%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the Khatlon region and lowest in the GBAO region.
School Attendance by Age and Sex, Tajikistan

- Nearly all children attend school at ages 8-10.
- Beyond age 11, a gap between male and female attendance grows pronounced and females leave school earlier than males.

Over-Age, Under-Age, and On-Time Students in Primary School, Tajikistan

Only about 12% of primary school students are in the appropriate GRADE for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.

- About 0% of the male primary school students and 0% of the female students are over-age by grade.
- About 87% of the male primary school students and 88% of the female students are under-age by grade.
- In this country, a significant portion of children enter primary school at an earlier age than the official age.

The Implications of Over-Age/Under-Age Students

*For the system:* Both late entry into primary school and grade repetition can cause children to be over-age for their grade. Early entry in primary school can be a cause of underage attendance.

*In the classroom:* Large numbers of over-age and/or under-age students present a challenge for teachers who must teach a more diverse group with differing levels of maturity and school preparedness.

Repetition, Dropout, and Promotion Rates by Grade, Tajikistan

- Repetition rate is highest in grade 7 of secondary school (2%) and lowest in grade 3 of secondary school (0%).
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 5 of secondary school (12%) and lowest in grade 1 of primary school (0%).
Primary School Completion Rates, Tajikistan

- Primary school completion rate shows that virtually 100% of children complete primary school (grade 4).

- The probability of completing primary school is lower for children in rural areas. Children in quintiles 2 and 3 are less likely to complete primary.

Educational Attainment, Tajikistan

Men are much better educated than women. The percentage of adults with a secondary degree is increasing, while post secondary degrees have dramatically decreased.

- 99% of men and 97% of women who are 15-19 years old have attended school.
- Among the population aged 20-24 years old, 66% of men and 43% of women have completed secondary or higher.
- Men and women combined, the cohort that entered school 15 years ago (20-24 year olds) is more likely to have completed secondary school or higher than the age cohort that entered school 25 years ago (30-34 year olds).

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2005
Female Literacy Rates, Tajikistan

Female Literacy Rate (age 15-24)

- 97% of women age 15-24 in urban areas can read, compared to 97% in rural areas.

Female Literacy Rate by Age

- The percentage of women who can read is 97% among women age 45-49 and 96% among women age 15-19.

Literacy Rate of Women 15-24 Years Old by Grade Completed

- 81% of women who completed grade 4 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.