



RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN TURKISH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

IMAM HATIP SCHOOLS







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A VERSATILE EDUCATION MODEL: IMAM HATIP SCHOOLS

In the last few centuries, the Islamic World has fallen away from its values in the field of education like in many other areas of life with its superficial modernization approaches and alienated from its values by a kind of copy-paste method.

The education issue should be dealt with its history and future, with its material and spiritual aspects, with all stages of life. According to Islam, education is a lifelong process "from cradle to grave". The education issue has been disintegrated from the unity, and on the other hand it has been mechanized.

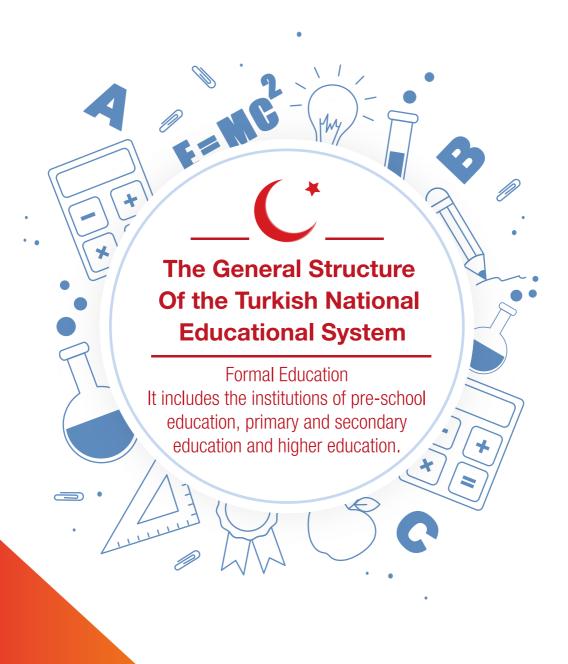
The Imam-Hatip model combines an educational model that nourishes our humanity with positive sciences through an approach that restores and develops both matter and meaning. Especially Imam-Hatip Schools has been giving a novel touch to Turkey since 1950 and it has pioneering figure in many areas of life.

This success of Imam Hatip Schools has aroused interest in the whole Islamic world. The Imam Hatip model, which is currently being used as a model in nearly 50 countries, will be discussed more effectively and widely in the world.

I am grateful to Faik Tanrikulu, the Chairman of ÖNDER External Relations Committee and his team who pioneered this study.

I hope that this study will enable the young people of the world to grow up in a multifaceted way, to understand life in a wholeness and continuity, and to open new paths to humanity by leaning on our own roots.

Halit BEKİROĞLU ÖNDER CHAIRMAN





It is the education of children between ages 3-5. The purpose of this education is physical, mental, sensory development of children and the acquisition of good habits to prepare children for primary education, to create a common atmosphere of growth for those who live under inconvenient circumstances and to ensure that they speak Turkish correctly and well.



Basic Education (Primary School):

It consists of 4 years in primary school and 4 years in secondary school. It covers the education and teaching directed to children between ages 6-14.

Its purpose is to ensure that every Turkish child acquires the basic knowledge, skills, behaviors and habits to become a good citizen, is raised in line with the national moral concepts and is prepared for life and the next education level parallel to his/her own interests and skills.

In the process of transition to the secondary education from basic education (being accepted to a high school - from a secondary school or an Imam-Hatip secondary school); according to the order of choices and score advantages, the average points obtained from students' points in the 6th, 7th, 8th grades and the points obtained from the central common exam -involving 6 courses- (Turkish, Math, Science and Technology, Turkish History, English, Religious Education and Ethics Course) will be calculated by the ministry and taken for consideration.



Secondary Education (High School):

It involves all 4-year educational institutions that are focused on basic education. The purpose of secondary education is to give students a common culture to identify individual and social problems, search for solutions, raise awareness in order to contribute to the socioeconomic and cultural development of the country and prepare students for higher education, for future profession, for life and for business in line with their interests and skills.





Secondary Education Institutions

They consist of Anatolian High Schools, Science High Schools, Social Sciences High Schools, Anatolian Imam-Hatip High Schools, Anatolian Fine Arts and Sports High Schools, Anatolian Vocational and Technical High Schools and Multi- Program Anatolian High Schools.



Education Institutions for Students with Special Needs or Disabilities

They aim at integrating disabled individuals into the society and providing these individuals with an occupation by meeting the educational needs of them ideally. Education is provided for the blind, deaf, orthopedically handicapped and mentally disabled students. There are also options for individuals with chronic diseases, autistic children, gifted children besides the types of inclusive education and education in special classes.

There are rehabilitation centers offering non-formal supportive educational services.



These consist of universities, faculties, institutes, higher education schools, conservatories, vocational higher education schools and application research centers. Based on secondary education, higher education covers all of the educational institutions that offer at least 2-years long higher education courses and raises students based on the qualified manpower needed within scientific research areas.



Religious Education And Religious Teaching in Turkish Educational System

Article 24 of the Constitution of 1982 reads as follows: "Religious and moral education and training shall be conducted under State supervision and control. The course on religious culture and moral education shall be among thae compulsory courses taught in the curricula of primary and secondary schools. Other types of religious education and instruction shall be

subject to the individual's own will, and in the case of minors, to the request of their legal representatives..."

Accordingly, two types of services are provided for students who are willing to have religious education: The Compulsory Educational Service and The Optional One.

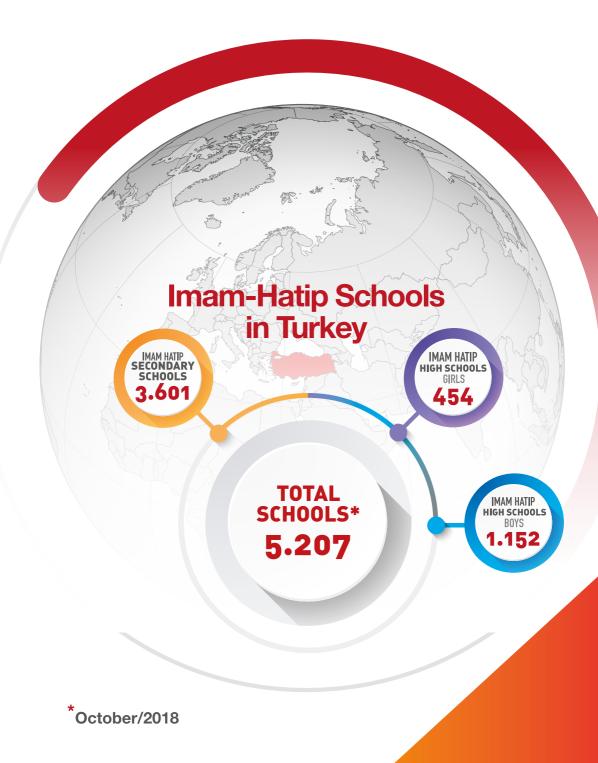




Imam-Hatip High Schools are such institutions that offer training in secondary education (high school) level in the national education system by not only offering vocational training for students but also sending them to all fields of higher education.

The originality and the diversity of the learning content of the education at these schools have received a great attention of the people and this school type has come until today by being branded as "Imam - Hatip High School."





History Imam-Hatip Schools are public pursuant to The Law of Unification of

Imam-Hatip Schools are public schools that have been established by Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey. Being one of the deep-rooted institutions in Turkey's educational system, these public schools have secondary and high school sections. After the foundation of the Republic of Turkey, the first Imam-Hatip example of the Republic was established and named as "Imam and Hatip School",

Education – which was accepted in Turkish Grand National Assembly on March 3rd, 1924. The number of these schools reached up to 34 in the early years. Being known as "Imam-Hatip Schools, they became widespread and their number rapidly increased with heavy demand of Turkish people in 1951. Being designed as secondary school section for (3) years and high school



section for (4) years in 1973, **Imam-Hatip Schools were named** "Imam - Hatip High Schools" by **National Education Basic Law (Law** no.1739). In 1985, Anatolian Imam -Hatip Schools were established and students were accepted by examination. After that year, both this type of schools (Anatolian Imam-Hatip High Schools) and the other type of schools which applied open student admission (Imam-Hatip High Schools) took part in educational system. A new system was implemented in the process of student transferring from secondary schools to high schools in 2014 and all of the Imam- Hatip Schools - as were in other school types - were

converted into Anatolian Imam-Hatip High Schools that grant student admission by examination. Courses relevant to Islamic disciplines besides scientific and cultural courses are instructed synchronously in modern educational environments in Imam-Hatip High Schools that have drawn heavy attention of the people and won the favour in people's eyes day to day in Turkey.

In that sense, Imam-Hatip High Schools are of interest of numerous world countries and Imam-Hatip model is becoming a current issue as a unique one.

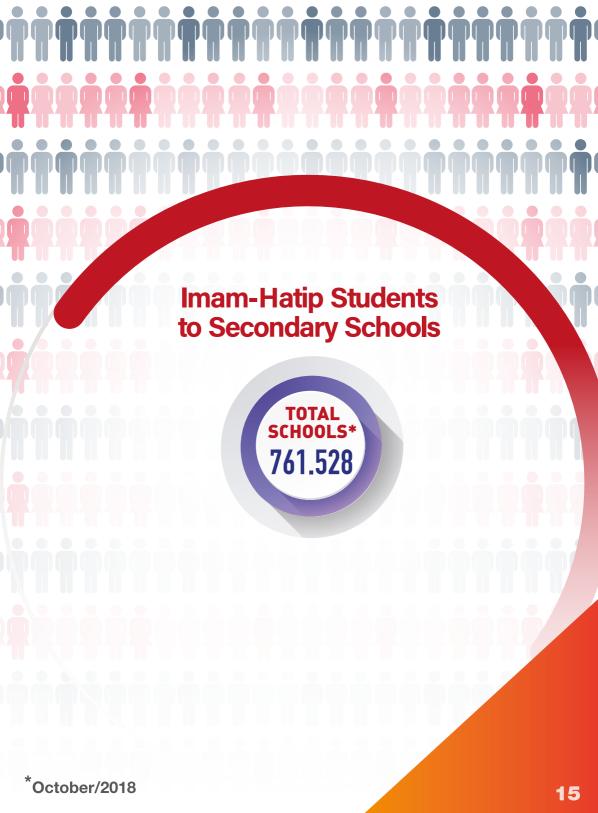




Implementation of the 12 - year compulsory educational system has been applied since 2012 in a form of a cascaded model; [4+4+4]; 4 years for primary education, 4 years for secondary education, and the last 4 years for high school education. Accordingly, after the optional and noncompulsory preschool period, the compulsory education period starts.

After the 4-year period of primary education which is the first stage of compulsory education, compulsory secondary education period starts from the 5th grade to the 8th grade. The schools in this second stage are split into two (2) as secondary schools and Imam-Hatip secondary schools. Parents can prefer either.





secondary schools or Imam- Hatip secondary schools for their children. Courses and the curricula in Imam-Hatip secondary schools and secondary schools are the same. In these two secondary school types: the courses such as Turkish, Math, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Foreign Language (English), Religious Culture and Ethics Course, Technology and Design Course, Information Technologies and Software, Visual Arts, Music and Physical Education are instructed jointly. The sole distinction between secondary schools and Imam-Hatip secondary schools is as below: The Arabic language, Holy Quran, Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) biography and basic religious knowledge that are instructed optionally upon students' and their parents' requests in all secondary schools are compulsory for the students in Imam- Hatip secondary schools in our country. Imam-Hatip secondary schools are established in order to be the basis of Imam-Hatip high schools and to the preparation phase for them.

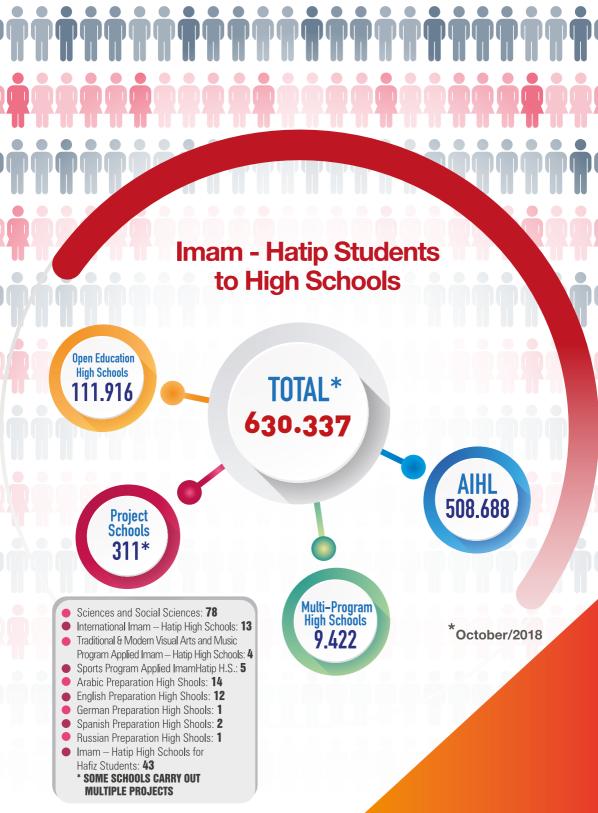




During the secondary school period which is the second stage of the 12-year compulsory education, students are accepted into various high school types according to their interests, desires and success levels. The process of transferring from secondary schools or Imam-Hatip secondary schools to these high schools and the placement to a desired school have been carried out according to the order of choice and

the score advantage. The Overall GPAs of students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and scores they get in the Central Common Exam (on the subjects of 6 courses) held by Ministry of National Education - to a certain extent - are taken. The students can be accepted to Anatolian Imam -Hatip high schools or to the other high schools in their hometowns or in other cities in Turkey (Science High Schools, Social





Sciences High Schools, Anatolian Imam- Hatip High Schools, Anatolian High Schools and Vocational Anatolian High Schools) and can continue their high school education— according to their choices and success points after the secondary school or Imam- Hatip secondary school period.

The students who prefer Anatolian Imam-Hatip High Schools complete their 4-year compulsory high school education period in those schools. Earning the required qualifications — if they wish so — the students can be

transferred from Imam-Hatip high schools to other high schools or they can be transferred from other high schools to Imam-Hatip high schools in the 9th and the 10th grades. Students who complete a 4-year education at those schools take the university entrance exam (held countrywide by the state) and they can study in any faculty they want according to their choices and the scores they get in that exam.



The Basic Features of Imam-Hatip Schools

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- 1- They are formal schools which are established by the State.
- 2- The religious education taught at the schools is under the control and auspices of the State
- **3-** The schools are open to the contributions of academia and non-governmental organizations.
- **4-** They serve as connectives for the people and the State.
- 5- Imam-Hatip Schools are a part of the general education system in our country.

6- Science and Culture Courses are instructed together with Islamic doctrines through modern methods in Imam-Hatip schools.

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- 7- Administrative and teaching staff are university graduates.
- 8- Imam-Hatip schools have a specific school culture.



The International Imam-Hatip High Schools in Turkey

These are the schools in which some chosen foreign students from Muslim countries or from countries where Muslims live have been trained. The main aims of these schools are to meet the demands of the communities (in the Islamic world) in the field of our experiences of religious education, contribute to the training of religious education/religious service staff and build a lasting bridge of friendship among communities.



The Imam-Hatip Schools Established Abroad

In order to provide education for the children of our citizens living abroad, schools which offer educational services within the Imam-Hatip programme (schedule) - have been established. Both in various Islamic countries and the other countries in which Muslims live, there are schools which employ the Imam-Hatip model established by civil society organizations. Their instructional programmes and educational materials are provided by Turkey.



TOTAL 54*

IMAM – HATIP SCHOOLS NUMBER

IN THE WORLD

Albania (2)

Austria

Azerbaijan

Belgium

Bosnia-Herzegovina (6)

Bulgaria

Burkina Faso (4)

Denmark (2)

Ivory Coast

Palestine

France

Ghana

Georgia

Cameroon (2)

Montenegro

TRNC - Turkish Republic

Of Northern Cyprus (3)

Kyrgyzstan

Kosovo (3)

Macedonia

Republic of Mali

Niger

Pakistan (2)

Romania

Senegal

Serbia (4)

Somalia (2)

Saudi Arabia (6)

Tanzania

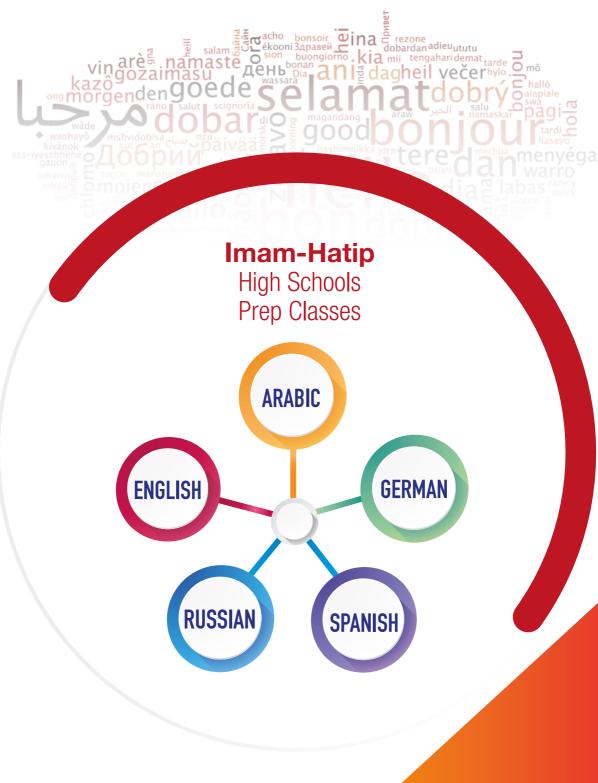
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There is a (1) one-year prep class application in some schools ensuring that each student learns at least one foreign language ideally besides his/her mother tongue during his/her school life in an Imam-Hatip High School.







Admitting academically successful students who are interested in science, conducting various scientific projects, and operating in cooperation with the universities; that schools focus on sciences and social sciences intensively.





