

Circular 113079/02/01-09-2026 “Admission process without examinations for special categories of students into Model Ecclesiastical Schools for the 2026–2027 school year”

In view of the forthcoming application process for the admission of special categories of students into Model Ecclesiastical Schools for the 2026–2027 school year, please be informed that, pursuant to the provisions of article 123 of Law 4823/2021 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 136) and Ministerial Decision No. 99702/02/09-08-2022 (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 4367), the following shall apply:

A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ADMISSION PROCESS

Students falling into one of the categories listed below may be eligible to participate in the admission process without examinations to the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical Junior High School or the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical High School:

(I) Children of Greek expatriates or foreign nationals of non-Greek descent. This category includes children of Greek expatriates and children of foreign nationals of non-Greek descent-foreign nationals who have graduated from a primary school abroad, for admission to the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical Junior High School, or from a Junior High School abroad, for admission to the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical High School.

(II) Holders of a diploma from a foreign school operating abroad that entitles them to admission or enrolment, in that country, in a grade equivalent to the first grade of Junior High School or the first grade of High School in Greece. This category also includes children of Greeks living abroad who have graduated from a primary school abroad and are interested in admission to the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical Junior High School, or who have graduated from a Junior High School abroad and are interested in admission to the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical High School.

(III) Children of families with three or more children, large families, or single-parent families.

(IV) Children of long-term unemployed.

(V) Children of families with a low annual income, as these categories are defined by current legislation.

It is noted that, pursuant to the provisions of article 49 of Law 5128/2024 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 118), whereby paragraph 10 was added to article 123 of Law 4823/2021 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 136), students of schools abroad who are recommended by Patriarchates, Holy Metropolises or Holy Monasteries abroad that are in communion with the Ecumenical Patriarchate may be enrolled, without examinations, in any grade of the Model Ecclesiastical Schools. For the enrolment of these students in the Model Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, a decision by the Institution's Multi-member Council is required, and for their enrolment in the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the approval of the Holy Community is required.

Consequently, the above category of students no longer falls within the special categories of candidates who may be admitted up to a certain percentage of the number of students admitted in each school year.

B. APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. Submission of the Application

Interested candidates may apply for only one special category per application, which must be signed by both parents or by the person exercising legal custody/guardianship. Interested candidates who submit an application for more than one category shall be excluded from the selection process.

The application for students to be included in the above categories, along with the necessary supporting documents for verification, is submitted within the first ten days of the school year, by email, to the Model Ecclesiastical School of their choice.

Candidates who participated in the selection process with examinations may also submit an application for admission under a special category, provided they are not among those admitted.

The Principal must send an email confirming receipt of the application and the supporting documents. The parents/guardians of the students must verify that the school has received the application and supporting documents. The application is considered final only after the school has sent the acknowledgement of receipt. In the event that the candidate is admitted, the parents/guardians must submit the supporting documents in hard copy to the school where the application was submitted.

After the application deadline, the Principal of the Model Ecclesiastical School must:

I) Confirm:

a. That the student is not participating in the process, due to the withdrawal of the application by means of a solemn declaration from the applicant's parents or those exercising legal custody/guardianship, and

b. That the candidate falls within the special category for which they have declared eligibility, following verification of the necessary supporting documents submitted.

II) Prepare the lists of candidates, ranked in order of assessment within each special category for admission to the respective Model Ecclesiastical School.

III) Forward the above lists to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

2. Required Supporting Documents for Each Special Category

The required supporting documents for each special category and the process for their submission, are specified in article 3 of Ministerial Decision No. 99702/O2/09-08-2022 (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 4367).

Certificates, reports and other supporting documents must be valid as of the date of application submission.

C. STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS

The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is responsible for ratifying the ranking lists of candidates, by special category, for each school, and for announcing the final results, listing the students admitted.

If, during the above process, vacancies arise in one or more Model Ecclesiastical School(s) due to a lack of interest in any of the categories (a) and (b) of paragraph 5 of article 123 of Law 4823/2021 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 136), as currently in force, they may initially be filled by candidates from the other categories of the same group and, if necessary, by candidates from categories (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 7 of article 123 of Law 4823/2021 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 136), and vice versa, in descending order of priority, as follows:

In cases (a) and (b) of paragraph 5, priority is given to: a) students who are children of Greek expatriates or foreign nationals, b) students who reside permanently in Greece and hold a diploma from a foreign school operating abroad that entitles them to admission or enrolment in that country in a grade corresponding to the first grade of Junior High School or the first grade of High School in Greece.

In cases (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 7, priority is given to: a) children of families with three or more children, large families, or single-parent families, b) children of long-term unemployed parents, c) children of families with a low annual income, as these categories are defined by current legislation.

If the vacancies are not filled through the above process, by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, they shall be filled from the ranking list referred to in paragraph 2 of article 123 of Law 4823/2021 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 136).

In the event that the number of applications in a category exceeds the number of available places, the overall graduation grade is taken into account as a secondary criterion to determine the students to be admitted. In the event of a tie, a draw is conducted by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is responsible for ranking candidates until all places are filled, based on the above criteria, for determining any additional criteria if necessary, and for addressing any related matter.

If vacancies arise for students of the special categories in the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical Junior High School or the first grade of a Model Ecclesiastical High School, for any reason, by October 31, these places are filled through the same process as set out above for filling vacancies.