

Law 4823/2021 (articles 138–163), Secondary Ecclesiastical Education, (articles 236–240), Transitional Provisions.

PART E

PROVISIONS ON ECCLESIASTICAL EDUCATION

CHAPTER A

SECONDARY ECCLESIASTICAL EDUCATION

Article 109

Secondary Ecclesiastical Education

Secondary Ecclesiastical Education is provided at Ecclesiastical Schools, Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, which are under the jurisdiction of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 110

Purpose of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. Ecclesiastical Schools serve the purposes of General Secondary Education.
2. Ecclesiastical Schools are established and operate with the specific purpose of enabling their students to deepen their understanding of the ecclesiastical, spiritual and cultural tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, in accordance with article 3 of the Constitution. The specific objectives of the Ecclesiastical Schools are for students to:
 - a. Develop a comprehensive educational framework, a field of knowledge and understanding of Orthodoxy as an ecclesiastical, spiritual and cultural tradition, as well as of its place and mission in the modern world,
 - b. Explore the main aspects of ecclesiastical teaching, worship, spirituality, art, tradition and life, and become aware of their contemporary dynamics,
 - c. Understand the need for mutual respect and dialogue among different religious communities and traditions for the benefit of social and religious peace, and
 - d. Consolidate the need to protect the natural and cultural environment.
3. The specific educational objectives of the Ecclesiastical Schools include:
 - a. The development of specific activities focused on the ecclesiastical character of the schools, with a view to highlighting the unique abilities of students,
 - b. Participation in research programs and the promotion of research in the teaching of individual subject areas, as well as in the field of educational psychology, in cooperation with departments and schools of Higher Education Institutions,
 - c. The practical training of undergraduate and postgraduate students and their familiarization with an environment of high teaching standards, in cooperation with departments and schools of Higher Education Institutions in the field of educational sciences,
 - d. Cooperation and networking with Higher Education Institutions in Greece or abroad, research institutions and public-benefit foundations.

Article 111

Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education

1. A Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is established, which is responsible for proposing, advising and making recommendations on matters concerning the educational and

teaching staff and educational units of Secondary Ecclesiastical Education and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools referred to in article 138, with regard to:

- a. The establishment, abolition, suspension of operation and relocation of the headquarters of educational units,
 - b. The determination of teachers' specializations for ecclesiastical specialization subjects,
 - c. The preparation or revision of curricula,
 - d. The announcement of calls for and authorship of textbooks for students and teachers for ecclesiastical specialization subjects,
 - e. Enrolment, transfers from one Ecclesiastical School to another, attendance, examinations, the evaluation process for students, and the organization of student life in general, and
 - f. The examination of any other relevant matter referred to it by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.
2. With regard to matters concerning the teaching staff and educational units of Secondary Ecclesiastical Education, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education consists of the following seven (7) members:
- a. one (1) professor or associate professor or professor emeritus of a Greek Higher Education Institution, whose field of expertise is related to the educational sciences and the purposes set out in article 110, as Chair, along with an alternate, who is appointed following an open call for expressions of interest issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs,
 - b. one (1) member of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Educational Policy, as Vice-Chair, along with an alternate, proposed by the Board of Directors of the Institute of Educational Policy,
 - c. one (1) Education Adviser, in the PE 01 category of Theologians, along with an alternate, who is appointed following an open call for expressions of interest issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs,
 - d. two (2) clergy members or other persons of standing with knowledge and experience in matters of ecclesiastical education, proposed by the Standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, along with their alternates,
 - e. one (1) clergy member or other person of standing with knowledge and experience in matters of ecclesiastical education, proposed by the Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, along with an alternate,
 - f. one (1) principal or teacher who has served at a General Ecclesiastical High School or General Ecclesiastical High School- Junior High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), or serves or has served at an Ecclesiastical School under this Law, along with an alternate, who are selected by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs following an open call for expressions of interest issued by the Minister, taking into particular account their academic qualifications, experience and overall contribution to ecclesiastical education.
- a) With regard to matters concerning the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and their teaching staff, the composition of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is expanded to nine (9) members, as follows: a) the seven (7) members referred to in paragraph 2, and b) two (2) members, proposed respectively by the Standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece and the Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, along with their alternates. The members referred to in point (b) shall be members of the clergy with advanced formal qualifications or persons of standing with knowledge and experience in matters of ecclesiastical education and the education of the clergy, who additionally possess at least one (1) of the following qualifications: a) professors, associate professors or assistant professors at universities, b) advisers or associate members of the Institute of Educational Policy, c) Education Advisers, in the PE01 category of Theologians, d) public secondary school teachers in the PE 01 category, holding a master's or doctoral degree.

4. The term of office of the members of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is four years. Participation in the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is unpaid. The travel expenses of the Chair, Vice-Chair and members for their participation in the meetings of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education are charged to the budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.
5. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is established by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. The same decision appoints its secretary, who is an employee of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs or a teacher seconded thereto, and other staff are assigned to its administrative support and operation. The Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs or his or her lawful alternate participates in the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education as rapporteur, without the right to vote.
6. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education meets at the headquarters of the central service of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, following an invitation by its Chair, which is sent electronically to all members at least five (5) days prior to the meeting, unless the meeting is extraordinary, in which case the invitation may be sent one (1) day prior to the meeting. Meetings are held regularly once a month and extraordinarily at the discretion of the Chair when urgent matters arise for discussion. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education may also meet by teleconference, in accordance with paragraph 13 of article 14 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (Law 2690/1999, A' 45). Minutes are drawn up for its meetings, which are kept in both printed and electronic form. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is administratively supported by the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.
7. The Chair ensures the smooth operation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and exercises any competence assigned to him or her by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The Chair may assign to a member of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education the task of conducting a detailed study and making a recommendation on a specific issue.
8. In all other respects, the provisions concerning collective bodies of the Code of Administrative Procedure shall apply to the operation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

Article 112

Establishment, Abolition and Suspension of Operation of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools are housed together with General Ecclesiastical High Schools in the same building complex, are served by the same teaching and administrative staff, are managed by the same Principal and Vice Principal, and operate as an "Ecclesiastical School". By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, matters arising from the co-location of Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, as well as their operation under a single administration, are regulated.
2. By joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Finance, upon a proposal by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools are established, abolished, suspended or transferred.
3. If an Ecclesiastical School does not reach the minimum number of one hundred and twenty (120) pupils enrolled therein for three (3) consecutive school years, its operation shall be suspended. If only a General Ecclesiastical High School operates, the minimum number of pupils for the purposes of the first sentence is sixty (60).

4. The Ecclesiastical School of the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy and the Patmiada Ecclesiastical School are exempt from the minimum student enrollment requirements laid down in paragraph 3.
5. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, all specific and detailed matters relating to the abolition, suspension of operation or relocation of an Ecclesiastical School are determined, and in particular those concerning the safekeeping of student records, the authority to issue and provide to any interested party any certificate or copy of a degree or any other document included in the records, the disposal of school equipment and school library, and the management of any remaining funds of the school board.
6. By decision of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the name of each Ecclesiastical School is determined.

Article 113

Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy

1. The Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy is part of secondary ecclesiastical education, serves the purposes set out in article 110, and operates as an Ecclesiastical Junior High School and a General Ecclesiastical High School.
2. By joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Foreign Affairs, following approval by the Biannual Holy Assembly pursuant to articles 6 and 41 of the legislative decree of September 10, 1926 "On the Ratification of the Constitutional Charter of Mount Athos" (A' 309), the Regulatory Provision is ratified, whereby all matters relating to the educational, administrative and financial management of the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy are specified, taking into particular consideration: (a) the status of Mount Athos, (b) the provisions hereof, (c) the needs of the Holy Monasteries of Mount Athos, and (d) the special significance of Mount Athos for world culture and Orthodoxy in particular.

Article 114

General Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School

1. The General Ecclesiastical High School of the institution known as the "Rizarios Ecclesiastical School" is part of secondary ecclesiastical education, serves the purposes of article 110 and, in conjunction with article 142, and fulfils the purpose of the will of the founders of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School. It is subject to the provisions hereof and is supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs for educational matters and by the Ministry of Finance for administrative and management matters.
2. By Presidential Decree, issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and following the consent of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School referred to in article 3 of the Royal Decree of May 8/17, 1958 (A' 81), specific matters concerning teaching staff, students and student matters are determined. The consent of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is deemed to have been given upon the expiry, without action, of three (3) months from the date on which it is requested by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. In this case, the Presidential Decree is issued following an opinion of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

Article 115

Housing for ecclesiastical Schools

1. Holy Metropolises, Holy Parishes, Holy Monasteries, ecclesiastical institutions, charitable or educational institutions, first- or second-level Local Government Authorities, and legal entities governed by public or private law may grant free use of buildings they own for the purpose of housing Ecclesiastical Schools. To grant the use of the building to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs for the housing of Ecclesiastical Schools, a contract is signed between the Ministry and the entities referred to in the first sentence, for a term of at least fifteen (15) years, with the option of renewal.
2. The persons referred to in paragraph 1 may transfer, by way of donation, to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs premises owned by them for the construction of a school building by the company "BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURES S.A." for the sole purpose of housing an Ecclesiastical School. A contract is signed for the donation. The completion of the construction of the building and the commencement of operation of the Ecclesiastical School takes place within seven (7) years from the conclusion of the donation agreement, unless a longer period is specified in the agreement. If the construction works have not commenced within four (4) years from the conclusion of the donation agreement, the donation may be revoked.
3. With regard to the suitability of the buildings referred to in paragraph 1 and the premises referred to in paragraph 2, the provisions applicable to public secondary schools apply as to the criteria, procedure and the body deciding on the matter.
4. Any specific matter relating to the conclusion and terms of the contracts provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 are regulated by a joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Finance.
5. The Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is housed in a building within the institution's building complex, in accordance with a decision of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, which also determines its schoolyard area.

Article 116

Governing Bodies of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. The governing bodies of Ecclesiastical Schools, which are responsible for their day-to-day operation, are: (a) the Principal, (b) the Vice Principal, and (c) the Teacher Council. When the Principal is temporarily absent or unable to perform his or her duties, he or she is replaced by the Vice Principal or, if no Vice Principal has been appointed, by the most senior teacher. The provisions applicable to general secondary schools apply to the competences and duties of the Principals and Vice Principals of the Ecclesiastical Schools. The Principal of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School submits a report, every six months, to the Multi-member Council of the institution on the operation of the school, which is sent to the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.
2. The teacher council, in addition to the general competences exercised in public general secondary education schools, has the following specific competences: (a) it may appoint, upon the recommendation of the Principal, two (2) subject-area teachers as coordinators for courses in related specializations in public general secondary education, and one teacher of the PE01 Theologian category for courses of ecclesiastical specialization; (b) it decides on the formation of the groups referred to in paragraph 1 of article 125, and (c) it proposes the operation of the summer programs referred to in paragraph 4 of article 125.
3. The Teacher Council of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School refers to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs any act or omission of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School or a member thereof which obstructs, impedes or thwarts the operation of the school or is contrary to the purposes of the Ecclesiastical Schools set out in article 110.

4. The Principal of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School notifies the Multi-member Council of the institution of the leaves of absence of the teaching and administrative staff that he or she grants.

Article 117

Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools are selected from among teachers of public secondary education with at least twelve (12) years of educational service, eight (8) years of teaching service in public, general or ecclesiastical education, and certified knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) at Level 1, who are at least three (3) years away from reaching the age limit and length-of-service required for automatic retirement from service.
2. In January preceding the end of the Director's term of office, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 119, the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs issues a call for applications to fill the positions of Principals of the Ecclesiastical Schools. The call is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and of the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education.
3. Pursuant to the call of paragraph 2, teachers who possess the required qualifications, in accordance with the provisions hereof, and who wish to be selected for positions as Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools are invited to submit an electronic application, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents, to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, within the time limit specified in the call. Candidates may apply for a maximum of three (3) Ecclesiastical Schools in total, in order of preference.
4. The grounds for disqualification from selection applicable to candidates for the positions of Principals of schools of public secondary education also apply to candidates for the positions of Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools. The conditions and selection criteria must be met by the deadline for submitting candidacy applications. The grounds for disqualification from selection referred to in the first sentence must not apply either at the time of the deadline for submitting the candidacy application or at the time of appointment by the competent body.
5. The selection criteria for Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools are divided into six (6) categories, as follows:
 - a) Scientific and pedagogical qualifications and training, as evidenced, in particular, by academic degrees and further training, knowledge of foreign languages, and certified training in new technologies,
 - b) Scientific and scholarly work, as evidenced, in particular, by participation in research programs of Higher Education Institutions or scientific bodies in the capacity of researcher, distinctions, scientific publications with an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), articles published in reputable peer-reviewed scientific journals in Greece and abroad, presentations at scientific conferences published in proceedings, the design and development of educational materials, following an assignment from the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs or bodies supervised by it,
 - c) Innovative educational work and contribution to school development, as evidenced, in particular, by organizing or participating in school evaluation programs, organizing or participating in action research, participation in educational programs involving school partnerships or networks approved by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, and participation in or organization of clubs or extracurricular activities,
 - d) Service status, teaching experience and advisory work, as evidenced, in particular, by experience in implementing innovations and educational experimentation, teaching experience in secondary education beyond that which is a prerequisite for applying for the position, teaching in higher education, and provision of training in pedagogical guidance

programs or other officially established programs or projects of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs,

e) Administrative experience, as evidenced, in particular, by previous service in positions of Vice Principal or Principal at the schools where the candidate has served, or in other positions of responsibility,

f) The candidate's overall character and personality, and, above all, the candidates' acceptance of the general and specific objectives of ecclesiastical education, which are assessed through a structured oral interview before the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. At this stage, recognized work or activities or qualities, such as the status of clergy, which are related to the general and specific objectives of ecclesiastical education, are also taken into consideration.

6. The total number of evaluation points for the categories of criteria of paragraph 5 are one hundred (100). By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and the opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, the sub-criteria for each category of criteria, their weighting in evaluation points, the supporting documents accompanying the candidates' applications, the content and procedure of the interview of candidates before the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, and any specific matters relating to the ranking and selection process of the candidates are determined. The same decision may assign a higher number of evaluation points to the criterion of point (e) and to the sub-criteria of experience in the implementation of innovations and experience in educational experimentation under the criterion of point (d) of paragraph 5, for Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools.
7. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, at a meeting held within five (5) days of the expiration of the deadline for the submission of candidacy applications, draws up a single list, in alphabetical order, of the candidates who meet the requirement of paragraph 1, which is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education. Candidates may file an objection to the lists within a strict deadline of three (3) working days from the day following their posting. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education issues a reasoned decision on the objections, revises the lists and notifies the interested parties accordingly.
8. Thereafter, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education draws up, in accordance with the specific provisions of the call for applications, a provisional evaluation ranking list of teachers, based on the criteria set out in points (a) to (e) of paragraph 5, which is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education.
9. Candidates may file an objection to the list referred to in paragraph 8 within a strict period of three (3) working days from the day following its posting on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education issues a reasoned decision on the objections, revises the list and notifies the interested parties accordingly.
10. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, then, sets the dates for inviting candidates to an interview, which may also be conducted remotely via videoconference. Upon completion of the interview, each member of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education records, in a reasoned and concise manner, the points given to the candidate during the interview. The final evaluation points for each candidate under the criterion (f) of paragraph 5 are the average of the points awarded to them by the members of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The minutes of the meeting of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education record the content of the interview, including the questions posed by the members of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education

and the answers given by the candidate. Furthermore, the minutes record the score given by each member of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and a brief justification for it, as well as the individual assessment of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education for each candidate's personality and overall character. Candidates who fail to attend the interview are excluded from the selection process. In particular, candidates for the position of the Principal of the General Ecclesiastical High School of Rizarios Ecclesiastical School are interviewed by its Multi-member Council; the interview may also be conducted remotely via videoconference, prior to the interview before the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The Multi-member Council, without delay, forwards to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education its opinion on each candidate without a ranking order.

11. After the scoring of criterion (f) of paragraph 5, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education draws up the final evaluation ranking list of teachers. The total number of points for each candidate is determined by adding the points obtained under the individual criteria. Once compiled, the final evaluation ranking list drawn up by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is submitted without delay by its Chair to the Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations for ratification, following a review of its legality. Following its ratification, the final evaluation ranking list is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education. In particular, for the position of Principal of the General Ecclesiastical Lyceum of Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the Multi-member Council may submit a specific and fully reasoned objection to the selection made by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education within a strict period of three (3) working days from the day following the submission of the final evaluation ranking list pursuant to the second sentence. In this case, the Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations decides.
12. The appointment of Principals to Ecclesiastical Schools are made by decision of the Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, on the basis of their ranking on the final evaluation list and their stated preferences. In any case, a prerequisite for appointment to the position of Principal is that the candidate fulfills the mandatory working hours for the position of Principal at the Ecclesiastical Schools in their application.
13. The term of office of Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools is four years. Principals appointed to Ecclesiastical Schools retain their permanent positions. During the final year of their term, they undergo an evaluation in accordance with article 130. In the event of a positive evaluation and upon their request, their term of office is renewed by decision of the Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. If any of these conditions are not met, the Principals return to their permanent positions.
14. If no applications are submitted for an Ecclesiastical School, or if the applications submitted do not meet the criteria set out in points (a) to (f) of paragraph 5, one of the teachers of the Ecclesiastical School is appointed as Principal by decision of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, notwithstanding any general or specific provision. The Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School may submit a specific and fully reasoned objection to the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education within a strict period of three (3) working days from the day following its notification to the Institution's Council. In this case, the Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations decides and subsequently issues his or her opinion in accordance with the preceding sentence. The appointment is made by decision of

the Head of the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

15. In particular, at the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the appointment of the Principal, pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 14, additionally requires the prior approval of the Holy Community of Mount Athos, in accordance with decision No. F.7626/6/AS1785/9.12.1987 (B' 765) of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, without requiring a reasoned opinion for the refusal to grant approval to the candidates of higher rank.

Article 118

Vice Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. Following the appointment of the Principals, provided that the total number of students and classes at the Ecclesiastical School justifies, in accordance with the provisions applicable to general secondary education, the appointment of a Vice Principal position, the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs invites the permanent teachers of the school concerned who wish to serve as Vice Principal to submit an application to the Principal.
2. The applications are sent to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, which selects the Vice Principal. The appointment is made by decision of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations. If no application is submitted by an interested party, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education decides on the selection of the Vice Principal. In particular, in the case of the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the appointment of the Vice Principal additionally requires prior approval of the Holy Superintendence of Mount Athos, in accordance with decision No. Φ.7626/6/ΑΣ1785/9.12.1987 of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (B' 765), without requiring a reasoned opinion in the event of a refusal to grant approval.
3. Paragraph 4 of article 117 also applies to the selection of the Vice Principal.

Article 119

Term of Office of Principals and Vice Principals

1. The appointment of Principals and Vice Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools to vacant positions is for a term of four (4) years, which expires on July 31 of the fourth year following their selection.
2. The Principals and Vice Principals of the Ecclesiastical Schools, upon the expiration of their term of office, continue to perform their duties until the new Principals and Vice Principals assume office.
3. If the position of the Principal becomes vacant for any reason, a new Principal is appointed in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 15 of article 117. If the position of the Vice Principal becomes vacant for any reason, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education appoints a new Vice Principal, who is appointed by decision of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 120

Relief of Principals and Vice Principals from the Performance of Their Duties

1. By decision of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, following the consent of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Principals and Vice Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools may, upon their application, be relieved of their duties for serious personal, family or health reasons.

2. For any other reason for exemption, the provisions applicable to public secondary education apply.
3. Principals and Vice Principals are not granted educational leave for postgraduate studies or for the acquisition of a doctoral degree unless they have first been relieved of their duties in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1.

Article 121

Transfer-Appointment of Principals and Vice Principals upon the Expiration of Their Term of Office

1. The Principals and Vice Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools may, during their term of office, submit an application for transfer as teachers, in accordance with the provisions governing the transfers of teachers in public secondary education. In the event of a transfer, they assume their new position upon the expiration of their term as Principals or Vice Principals, as applicable.
2. Upon the expiration of their term of office, the Principals and Vice Principals of Ecclesiastical Schools return to the positions to which they are organically assigned or to which they were transferred in accordance with paragraph 1.
3. A Principal of an Ecclesiastical School whose operation is suspended or which is abolished is, upon application, appointed for the remainder of his or her term of office to a vacant position as Principal at another Ecclesiastical School, by decision of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the proposal of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. If there is no vacant position of Principal, he or she shall return to his or her permanent position.

Article 122

Right to Attend Ecclesiastical Schools

1. Ecclesiastical Schools are co-educational. Greek nationals and foreign nationals who are graduates of public or private primary schools or junior high schools in Greece, or their foreign equivalents, are entitled to attend them, as specifically provided for in article 123. Female students may not attend the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy.
2. The duration of study at Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools is the same as the duration of study at Junior High Schools and General High Schools in secondary education. Graduates of Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools are awarded, respectively, a diploma equivalent to that of Junior High Schools and General High Schools of public secondary education. Holders of a General Ecclesiastical High School diploma are entitled to participate in the higher education admission system under the same terms and conditions that apply to students of day General High Schools of public secondary education.
3. The provisions applicable to public secondary education apply to the formation of student councils in Ecclesiastical Schools.

Article 123

Admission of Students to Ecclesiastical Schools

1. The number of students to be admitted to the first grade of each Ecclesiastical Junior High School and to the first grade of each General Ecclesiastical High School for each school year is determined by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, taking into account the school's operating conditions. The number of students admitted to the first grade of the Ecclesiastical Lyceum of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School for each school year is

determined by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, following a recommendation by the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School. The number of students to be admitted to the first grade of the Ecclesiastical Junior High School and to the first grade of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy for each school year is determined by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, following a recommendation from the Holy Community of Mount Athos. The decision is announced by any appropriate means, no later than April 30, of each year, to all Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, the Directorates of Primary Education, the Directorates of Secondary Education, the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete and the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, and is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. Parents or guardians of students who wish to participate in the selection process submit an application to the Ecclesiastical School of their choice within the period specified in the decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education referred to in the first sentence. Any interested party may submit an application and participate in the entrance exams for admission to one Ecclesiastical School of their choice, regardless of their place of residence. Submitting an application does not preclude participation in the entrance exams for admission to a Model School of public secondary education or participation in the draw for admission to an Experimental School of public secondary education.

2. Admission of students to the first grade of an Ecclesiastical Junior High School, or of graduates of the third grade of a general education Junior High School or of an Ecclesiastical Junior High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14) to the first grade of a General Ecclesiastical High School, takes place following examinations or a skills test in the subjects of: (a) Mathematics, (b) Language, and (c) Religious Education, which are conducted each school year and are completed with the compilation of a ranking list in descending order of scores. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation from the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, any specific matters relating to the format of the exams or skills test, the procedure for submitting applications to participate in the exams, the selection of topics, the procedure and dates of the exams, the bodies competent to conduct the exams, the release of results and the assessment of candidates are determined. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education coordinates the implementation of the relevant procedures and ensures their integrity.
3. If there are vacancies by October 31 in the first grade of an Ecclesiastical Junior High School due to transfers, the removal of students, or any other reason, these are filled from the ranking list referred to in paragraph 2.
4. The procedure laid down in paragraph 2 may be used to fill vacancies arising in the second and third grades of the Ecclesiastical Junior High School and in the second grade of a General Ecclesiastical High School. Responsibility for the aforementioned supplementary examination or skills test lies with the school's governing bodies and a three-member committee of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, consisting of its Vice-President, the Education Advisor, and the Principal or teacher of point (f) of paragraph 2 of article 111. Any specific matter relating to the conduct of the supplementary examination or skills test is determined by a decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, which is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and announced by all appropriate means to all Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, the Directorates of Primary Education, the Directorates of Secondary Education, the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete and the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese.
5. By way of exception to paragraphs 1 to 4, students may, in percentages of places per category in addition to the number of students to be admitted, be admitted without examinations to the first grade of an Ecclesiastical Junior High School or General Ecclesiastical High School if

they: (a) are children of Greek expatriates or foreign nationals, (b) hold a diploma from a foreign school operating abroad that grants the right of admission or enrolment in that country to a grade equivalent to the first grade of Junior High School or the first grade of High School in Greece, or (c) are recommended by Orthodox Patriarchates or Orthodox Holy Metropolises abroad. In particular, for the admission to the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy of students who are children of Greek expatriates or foreign nationals, the approval of the Holy Community of Mount Athos is required. In particular, for the admission of students referred to in the first sentence to the General Ecclesiastical Lyceum of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, a decision of the Institution's Multi-member Council is required.

6. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy and the Centre for the Greek Language, the following are determined: (a) the eligibility requirements for the categories referred to in points (a) to (c) of paragraph 5, (b) the percentage of places per category, (c) the required supporting documents, (d) the selection procedures, (e) the need to operate reception classes, (f) their organization and operation, (g) the conditions for students' placement in such classes, (h) the subjects taught, their content and teaching hours, (i) the method and procedure for assessing students, (j) the conditions for successful completion, (k) the staffing of these classes with teaching personnel, and (l) any other relevant matter.
7. By way of exception to the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, a percentages of places per category in addition to the number of admitted students, may be allocated without examinations to the first grade of an Ecclesiastical Junior High School or General Ecclesiastical High School students who are: (a) children of families with three or more children or single-parent families, (b) children of parents who have been unemployed for a long time, (c) children of families with a low annual income, as these categories are defined by current legislation. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the following are determined: (a) the specific eligibility requirements for inclusion in the categories, (b) the percentage of places per category, (c) the required supporting documents, (d) the selection procedures, and (e) any other relevant matter. In particular, the admission of students referred to in the first sentence to the General Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School requires a decision of the Institution's Multi-member Council.
8. In addition to the number of students to be admitted, scholarship students of the self-managed funds administered by the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School are admitted to the first grade of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School.

Article 124

Curricula

1. Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools follow the curriculum and timetable of public general secondary education, as amended by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, so as to include ecclesiastical specialization subjects that serve to achieve the general and specific purpose and the individual objectives of article 110.
2. In General Ecclesiastical High Schools all Subject Orientation Groups are offered in accordance with article 2 of Law 4186/2013 (A' 193).
3. The timetable referred to in paragraph 1 may be supplemented with additional teaching hours exclusively for ecclesiastical specialization subjects, up to a maximum of forty-two (42) hours per week. In the third grade of High School, the additional teaching hours are allocated exclusively to the subjects of the Orientation Groups.

4. The Item Bank of Graded Difficulty referred to in Article 9 of Law 4692/2020 (A' 111) does not apply to the selection of questions for the written examined ecclesiastical specialization subjects in the promotion and graduation exams of students attending General Ecclesiastical High Schools. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, the application of the Item Bank of Graded Difficulty may be extended to include the exam questions for the subjects listed in the first sentence.
5. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Centre for the Greek Language, matters relating to the teaching of ecclesiastical specialization subjects concerning the study of the Greek language, as reflected throughout its historical development in ecclesiastical texts, are regulated.
6. The specific obligations of students regarding their participation in the liturgical life of the Church are determined by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

Article 125

Operation of Clubs and Summer Programs

1. To develop the specific abilities and inclinations of students of the Ecclesiastical School by decision of the Teacher Council, approved by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, clubs are established and the matters concerning their organization and operation are regulated. The clubs operate outside the regular timetable, in accordance with the decision establishing them. The participation of the teachers of Ecclesiastical Schools in the clubs counts for fulfilling their teaching hours. In consultation with the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, individuals associated with the subject matter or field of the club may be invited to participate.
2. Ecclesiastical Schools are required to offer clubs for ecclesiastical arts, such as Byzantine music and iconography, sports clubs, and clubs for learning one of the following languages: Russian, Arabic, Serbian, Romanian, Bulgarian and Turkish. The cost of hiring teachers for the languages mentioned in the first sentence is covered by the regular budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs or the Public Investment Program. The conditions, terms and procedures for the recruitment of teachers of the languages listed in the first sentence, as well as any other relevant detail, are determined, notwithstanding the provisions in force, by a joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education .
3. To enroll students of Ecclesiastical Schools in the clubs, an application by their parents or guardians is required, the opinion of the competent course coordinator, and a decision by the Principal. For the enrolment in the clubs of the first paragraph by students attending other public schools within the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Secondary Education of the area where the Ecclesiastical School is located, an application by their parents or guardians to the Principal of the Ecclesiastical School, the opinion of the Principal of the school attended by the student, and a decision by the Principal of the Ecclesiastical School are required.
4. By decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, following a proposal by the Teacher Council, summer programs (summer schools) may be operated at an Ecclesiastical School, and collaborations may be established with ecclesiastical schools abroad, particularly the Theological School of Halki and the Hellenic Orthodox Theological School of the Holy Cross, based in Boston, United States of America (U.S.A.), as well as with schools of Greek expatriates.
5. By decision of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and in cooperation with the Principal, following the consent of the Teacher Council and the approval of the Head of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and

Religious Affairs, artistic events, lectures and school performances may be organized, and participation in national or international competitions, at the expense of the institution.

Article 126

Benefits and Facilities for Students

Students of Ecclesiastical Schools are entitled to the benefits and facilities provided for by the provisions in force for students of public secondary education, in particular with regard to the provision of free textbooks or other educational materials and transportation. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the relevant provisions are adapted to the specific operating conditions of the Ecclesiastical Schools.

Article 127

Teaching Staff of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. Ecclesiastical Schools are staffed by teachers with advanced academic qualifications, from all categories and specializations of public secondary education, who are assigned on a fixed term to these schools. The aforementioned teachers are selected in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
2. Where there is a need to fill vacancies for secondary education teachers in Ecclesiastical Schools, the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs announces a ranking process for candidate teachers in order of priority, by category and specialty. The call for applications and the ranking process are carried out following a recommendation by the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, in accordance with the educational needs of the Ecclesiastical Schools, as submitted by their principals, by category and specialty. The call for applications is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, and the Directorates of Secondary Education. Placement to Ecclesiastical Schools concerns the next school year. The call for applications regulates all matters relating to the conduct of the process. The ranking lists of the candidate teachers, drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 11, are valid from the date of their ratification until the end of the second academic year following their ratification.
3. The call for applications of paragraph 2 invites teachers who possess the required qualifications, in accordance with the provisions of this Law, and who wish to be selected for teaching positions in Ecclesiastical Schools to submit an electronic application, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents, to the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, within the deadline specified in the call. Applicants may submit an application listing their order of preference for the filling of a teaching position at up to three (3) Ecclesiastical Schools in total.
4. Teachers selected for these schools are from the public secondary education who have at least five years of teaching experience at a school of general secondary education or ecclesiastical secondary education.
5. The selection criteria for teachers of Ecclesiastical Schools are divided into five (5) categories, as follows:
 - (a) Scientific and pedagogical qualifications and training, as evidenced, in particular, by academic degrees and training programs, knowledge of foreign languages, and certified training in new technologies,
 - (b) Scientific and scholarly work, as evidenced, in particular, by participation, in research programs of Higher Education Institutions or scientific organizations in the capacity of a

researcher, awards, scientific publications with an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), articles published in reputable peer-reviewed scientific journals in Greece and abroad, presentations at scientific conferences published in conference proceedings, the design and development of educational materials commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs or bodies supervised by it,

(c) Innovative educational work and contribution to school development, as evidenced, in particular, by organizing or participating in school evaluation programs, organizing or participating in action research, participating in educational programs involving partnerships or school networks approved by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, and participating in or organizing clubs or extracurricular activities,

(d) Employment status, teaching experience and advisory work, as evidenced, in particular, by experience in implementing innovations and educational experimentation, teaching experience in secondary education, beyond that which is a prerequisite for applying for the position, teaching in higher education, professional development work in pedagogical guidance programs or other officially established programs or projects of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, and previous experience in positions of responsibility, and

(e) The candidate's overall character and personality, and, primarily, the candidates' acceptance of the general and specific objectives of ecclesiastical education, which are assessed through a structured oral interview before the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. At this stage, recognized work, activities or qualities, such as clerical status, which are related to the general and specific objectives of ecclesiastical education, are also taken into account.

6. The total number of evaluation points for the categories of criteria listed in paragraph 5 amounts to one hundred (100). By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, the sub-criteria for each category of criteria, their weighting in evaluation points, the supporting documents accompanying the candidates' applications, the content and process of the candidates' interview before the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, and any specific matter relating to the ranking and selecting candidates are determined. The same decision may assign a higher number of evaluation points to the sub-criteria of experience in implementing innovations and experience in educational experimentation under the criterion of point (d) of paragraph 5 for teachers of Ecclesiastical Schools.
7. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, at a meeting held within five (5) days of the deadline for the submission of applications, draws up an alphabetical list of the candidates who meet the requirement of paragraph 4, which is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education. Candidates who were not included may file an objection against it within a strict deadline of three (3) working days from the day following its posting. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education issues a reasoned decision on the appeals, revises the list and notifies the interested parties accordingly.
8. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, then, draws up, in accordance with the specific provisions of the call for applications, a provisional evaluation ranking list of teachers, based on the criteria set out in points (a) to (d) of paragraph 5, which is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education.
9. Candidates may file an objection against the list of paragraph 8 within an exclusive period of three (3) working days from the day following its posting on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the Supervisory Council for

Ecclesiastical Education issues a reasoned decision on the appeals, revises the list and notifies the interested parties accordingly.

10. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, then, sets the dates for inviting candidates to an interview, which may also be conducted remotely by electronic means. Upon completion of the interview, each member of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education records, in a reasoned and concise way, the points assigned to the candidate during the interview. The final evaluation points for each candidate under the criterion (e) of paragraph 5 are the average of the points assigned to them by the members of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The minutes of the meeting of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education set out the content of the interview, including the questions posed by the members of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and the answers given by the candidate. Furthermore, the minutes record the score given by each member of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and the brief justification for it, as well as the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education individual assessment of each candidate's personality and overall character. Candidates who fail to attend the interview are excluded from the selection process.
11. After the scoring of the criterion of point (e) of paragraph 5, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education draws up the final evaluation ranking list of teachers. The total score for each candidate is determined by adding the points obtained under the individual criteria. Once compiled, the final evaluation ranking list prepared by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is submitted without delay by its President to the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations for ratification, following a review of its legality. Following its ratification, the final evaluation ranking list is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education.
12. The placement of teachers to Ecclesiastical Schools is made by decision of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations, based on the teachers' ranking in the evaluation ranking list and their stated preferences.
13. The term of service of teachers in Ecclesiastical Schools is four years. Teachers appointed to Ecclesiastical Schools retain their permanent position. During the final year of their term, teachers undergo an assessment in accordance with article 131. In the event of a positive assessment and upon their request, their term of service is renewed by decision of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. If any of these conditions are not met, the teachers return to their permanent positions.
14. Newly appointed teachers to Ecclesiastical Schools undergo an assessment during the first year of their term of service, in accordance with article 131. If the assessment is positive, the teachers are permanently appointed, upon their request, for the remainder of their four-year term of service, in accordance with the first sentence of paragraph 13, to the respective Ecclesiastical School, by decision of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. If any of these conditions are not met, newly appointed teachers return to their permanent positions and their term of service automatically expires.
15. During their term of service in an Ecclesiastical School, a teacher is not entitled to apply for a vacant teaching position in another Ecclesiastical School. During their term of service in an Ecclesiastical School, a teacher may apply for transfer or secondment. If the teacher is transferred or seconded and assumes duties at the receiving body during his or her term of service, that term automatically terminates. In such cases, the teacher is not entitled to apply for a position to an Ecclesiastical School or to be a candidate for selection as a Principal of an Ecclesiastical School for the next two (2) school years.

16. The total period of service in teaching positions in Ecclesiastical Schools may not exceed twelve (12) years.
17. Operational vacancies arising, for any reason, at the beginning of or during the school year in Ecclesiastical Schools may be filled by assignment by the Directorate of Secondary Education or the Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education, in the following order of priority: (a) teachers included in the lists of the fourth subparagraph of paragraph 11 who were not appointed to an Ecclesiastical School and who do not complete their compulsory teaching hours, (b) permanent teachers who possess advanced academic qualifications and who do not complete their compulsory teaching hours, and (c) permanent teachers who do not complete their compulsory teaching hours. If it is not possible to fill the operational vacancies through this process, these vacancies are filled by substitute or hourly-paid teachers hired in accordance with the provisions applicable to public secondary education.
18. An Ecclesiastical School teacher who does not complete his or her compulsory teaching hours is assigned, as a matter of priority: (a) to a school unit within the Directorate of Secondary Education of the area where the Ecclesiastical School is located, by decision of the Director of Secondary Education, or (b) to a school within the same Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education, by decision of the Regional Director of Education.
19. Specifically, in the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the appointment of teaching staff pursuant to paragraph 12 or the filling of operational vacancies pursuant to paragraph 17 additionally require the prior approval of the Holy Community of Mount Athos, in accordance with decision No. Φ.7626/6/ΑΣ1785/9.12.1987 of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (B' 765), without requiring a reasoned opinion for the refusal to grant approval for the teachers higher in priority.

Article 128

Administrative and Operational Support of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. The administrative and operational needs, as well as the security and cleaning needs, of Ecclesiastical Schools are met in accordance with the provisions applicable to Public General Secondary Education schools. If the needs of the Ecclesiastical Schools are not met in accordance with the first sentence, they may be met by staff employed by the local Metropolis, following a request from the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and a decision by the relevant Metropolitan.
2. Paragraph 1 does not apply to the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the administrative and operational support of which falls exclusively within the responsibility of the Holy Community of Mount Athos.
3. Paragraph 1 does not apply to the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the administrative and operational support of which falls exclusively within the responsibility of the institution's budget.
4. The Institution's Multi-member Council may employ, at its own expense, a doctor, nurse, psychologist or staff to provide administrative and operational support or educational services at the Ecclesiastical High School or the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School. The Multi-member Council is prohibited to employ, under any contract or employment relationship, any person referred to in the first paragraph who is related to a member of the Multi-member Council by blood or marriage in a direct line up to the second degree, and in a collateral line up to the fourth degree.

Article 129

Affiliation of Ecclesiastical Schools with Institutions and Schools Abroad

1. Ecclesiastical Schools may be affiliated with: (a) Theological Schools and Departments of Higher Education Institutions or Higher Ecclesiastical Academies of Greece, (b) ecclesiastical institutions for educational or cultural purposes, (c) research or other organizations in Greece or abroad, (d) scientific associations, and (e) charitable foundations. Each Institution may be affiliated with more than one Ecclesiastical School. The affiliation of Ecclesiastical Schools with these Institutions is effected by a joint decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister competent in each case, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The same decision determines the nature of the affiliation, as well as the relevant conditions and procedure.
2. Ecclesiastical Schools may establish twinning relationships with ecclesiastical or religious schools, educational institutions abroad, and schools of Greek expatriates. Twinning arrangements are carried out in accordance with the provisions applicable to public secondary education schools.

Article 130

Evaluation of the Principal and the Vice Principal of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. For the evaluation of the Principal and the Vice Principal of Ecclesiastical Schools, the provisions governing general secondary education apply with regard to: (a) the planning of the work of educational executives (article 57), (b) the evaluation bodies (article 58), (c) the frequency (article 59), (d) the criteria and scoring for evaluation (article 60), (e) the evaluation procedures (article 61), and appeals (article 62). The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education is responsible for reviewing appeals.
2. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the provisions of paragraph 1 may be adapted to the specific operating conditions of the Ecclesiastical Schools.

Article 131

Evaluation of Teachers of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. For the evaluation of teachers of Ecclesiastical Schools, the provisions applicable to general secondary education apply with regard to: (a) the evaluation bodies (article 66), (b) the areas and criteria for evaluating teachers' work (article 67), (c) the entry of data into an electronic file (article 72), (d) the procedure for evaluating teachers' work (article 73), and (e) appeals (article 79). The body responsible for reviewing appeals is the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The work of teachers in Ecclesiastical Schools is evaluated in accordance with article 119 in relation to their term of office. Teachers receiving a negative evaluation are not entitled to apply for vacant teaching positions in ecclesiastical schools, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 127.
2. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the provisions of paragraph 1 may be adapted to the specific operating conditions of the Ecclesiastical Schools.

Article 132

Funding of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. The funding of Ecclesiastical Schools is provided under the terms and conditions applicable to the funding of other schools and, in addition:
 - (a) From the regular budget of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs,
 - (b) From donations, sponsorships, inheritances, bequests and other contributions from third parties, as well as grants from other sources. Acceptance of the revenues in this case requires

a decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, which is approved by a decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, and

(c) From donations, sponsorships, inheritances, bequests and other contributions from individuals or legal entities abroad. Acceptance of the revenues in this case requires a decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

2. For the maintenance, costs, operating expenses and cleaning of the buildings of the Ecclesiastical Schools, with the exception of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the relevant Local Government Authorities may fund the School Board referred to in article 133 or undertake the relevant work or services themselves.

Article 133

School Board

1. Ecclesiastical Schools have their own five-member School Board to support their administrative operation, which is assigned a tax identification number different from that of the respective Ecclesiastical School. Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools that share the same premises have a single joint School Board. Article 41 of Law 4129/2013 (A' 52), with regard to the audit of grants and funding, also applies to the School Board of Ecclesiastical Schools. The term of office of the members of the School Boards is two years, and they comprise: (a) the local Metropolitan, as Chair, along with his lawful alternate, (b) the Director of Secondary Education of the area where the Ecclesiastical School is located, along with his or her lawful alternate, (c) the Principal of the Ecclesiastical School, who is replaced by the Vice Principal or, if none has been appointed, by the most senior teacher, (d) one (1) prominent member of the local community, designated by the local Metropolitan, along with their alternate, and (e) one (1) representative of the relevant Municipality, along with his or her alternate, appointed by decision of the Municipal Council. The School Board is constituted by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs at least ten (10) days before the end of the term of office of the members of the outgoing Board and assumes its duties upon the expiration of the latter's term. Participation in the School Board is unpaid.
2. If the Metropolitan passes away, the Locum Tenens automatically becomes a regular member of the School Board, and a confirmatory act to that effect is issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. The Locum Tenens assumes the position of Chair until the position of Metropolitan is filled and the new Metropolitan assumes his duties, at which point the latter automatically assumes the position of Chair and a new confirmatory act is issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. Until then, the School Board continues to exercise all of its powers under the aforementioned composition.
3. The School Board meets regularly twice (2) a month and, on an extraordinary basis, upon the invitation of the Chair or upon a written request by the Principal of the Ecclesiastical School or two (2) of its members, specifying the items to be discussed and the serious reasons necessitating the extraordinary meeting. The Principal of the Ecclesiastical School acts as rapporteur, and one of the school's teachers, appointed by the Principal, acts as secretary. All matters relating to the composition, meetings, operation and decision-making of the School Board are governed by Articles 14 and 15 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (Law 2690/1999, A' 45).
4. The duties of each School Board are: (a) managing the appropriations allocated to it by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs to cover the operating expenses of the Ecclesiastical School, such as heating, lighting, water supply, telephone, sewerage or the purchase of consumable materials, (b) carrying out works for the repair and maintenance of the Ecclesiastical School, (c) overseeing and procuring all types of equipment, such as furniture

and supplies or books for the library, (d) making payments for the above expenses, (e) collecting and managing revenues derived, in particular, from municipal grants, State grants, grants from other sources, donations, inheritances and bequests, and contributions from third parties, and (f) collecting and managing revenues from voluntary contributions by the parents' and guardians' association for a specific project or purpose, festive or other events, the operation of the school canteen, and any other income. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, other duties related to the work of the School Board may also be assigned to it, and any other specific matters arising in the course of its duties may be regulated.

5. Specifically with regard to the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the establishment, constitution, composition, operation, competences and every detail concerning the School Board are determined by the regulatory provision of paragraph 2 of article 113.
6. The Multi-member Council exercises the powers of the School Board to support the administrative operation of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and has general supervision of all buildings and the Holy Church located on the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School estate. The Multi-member Council submits a report to the disciplinary superiors referred to in Presidential Decree 47/2006 (A' 48) any act or omission by the teaching staff or the Principal of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School which may constitute a disciplinary offence pursuant to Law 3528/2007 (A' 26), and notifies the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 134

Student Residence

1. At every Ecclesiastical School, a student residence may be established and operated to meet room and board needs of its students. All students of the Ecclesiastical Schools are entitled to meals, regardless of whether they reside in the dormitory.
2. The student residences of paragraph 1 of Ecclesiastical Schools operate under the responsibility of the local Metropolis or the Legal Entity under Private Law (LEPL) "Ecclesiastical Education Residence" of article 26 of Law 3432/2006 (A' 14). The student residence of the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy operates under the responsibility of the Holy Community of Mount Athos. The student residences of the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete and the Patmiada School operate under the responsibility of the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete and the Holy Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, respectively. The operating regulations of each student residence are laid down by a decision of: (a) the Metropolitan Council of the local Metropolis or the LEPL "Ecclesiastical Education Residence" for student residences operating in Metropolises of the Church of Greece, (b) the Holy Community of Mount Athos for the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, (c) the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete for the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete, and (d) the Holy Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos for the Patmiada School. The regulations set out in the previous paragraph regulate every detail related to the administration and operation of the student residence. The regulations take effect force upon their publication in the official monthly bulletin of the Church of Greece, "Church", or the official monthly bulletin of the Church of Crete, "Apostle Titos", or the official bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne in the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese", respectively. The operating regulations of the student residence of the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy must be submitted to the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations and posted on the school's website.
3. All expenses related to the operation of the student residence are borne by: (a) the local Metropolis, provided it operates under its responsibility, (b) the Church of Greece, provided

it operates under the responsibility of the LEPL “Ecclesiastical Education Residence” under article 26 of Law 3432/2006, (c) the Holy Community of Mount Athos, in the case of the student residence of the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, (d) the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete, in the case of the student residence of the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete, and (e) the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, in the case of the student residence of the Patmiada School.

4. The license to establish a student residence is issued by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation from the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, establishing that the room and board needs of Ecclesiastical Schools’ students in the area where the school operates cannot be met by any other means.
5. An operating license for a student residence is issued by a similar decision. For the decision to be issued, an application with the relevant file must be submitted by the entities listed in paragraph 2, under whose responsibility the residence operates, to the Directorate of Technical Services of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, which verifies the completeness of the file.
6. The requirements, conditions, supporting documents, form and any other specific matters relating to the granting of a license to establish and operate a student residence are determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs, Health, and Environment and Energy.
7. A student residence may be established and operated at the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School to meet the room and board needs of its students, by decision of the institution's Multi-member Council and under its responsibility. All expenses related to the operation of the student residence shall be borne by the institution. The operating regulations of the student residence are laid down by a decision of the Multi-member Council, and is communicated to the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations and posted on the websites of the institution and the school.

Article 135

Application of the Legislation on Public General Secondary Education

1. With regard to matters concerning Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools that are not regulated by the provisions of this Law, the provisions applicable to public secondary education apply, unless otherwise specified by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.
2. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, holidays and events at Ecclesiastical Schools are determined.
3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, specific matters related to the ecclesiastical character and the specific purpose of the schools of this Law are regulated.

Article 136

Coverage of Operating Expenses

The regular budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs includes, on an annual basis, the necessary appropriations to cover all types of operating expenses of Ecclesiastical Schools.

Article 137

Authorizing Provisions

1. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs:
 - (a) Matters arising from the co-location of Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, as well as their operation under a single administration, are regulated, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 112,
 - (b) All specific and detailed matters related to the abolition, suspension of operation or transfer of the seat of an Ecclesiastical School are determined, in particular those concerning the safekeeping of the student records, the authority to issue and provide to any interested party any certificate or copy of a degree or other document included in the archive, the disposal of the school's equipment and school library, and the management of any cash balance of the School Board, in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 112,
 - (c) Provisions differing from those applicable to public secondary education may be defined with regard to matters concerning Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools that are not regulated by the provisions of this Law, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 135,
 - (d) Specific matters related to the ecclesiastical character and the specific purpose of the schools governed by this Law are regulated, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 135.
2. By a joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Finance, following a recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools are established, abolished, suspended, or have their seat transferred, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 112.
3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, following the adoption by the Biannual Holy Assembly referred to in articles 6 and 41 of Legislative Decree of September 10, 1926 "on the ratification of the Constitutional Charter of Mount Athos" (A' 309), the Regulatory Provision through which all matters relating to the educational, administrative and financial management of the Athonite is ratified, taking into account, in particular: (a) the status of Mount Athos, (b) the provisions of this Law, (c) the needs of the Holy Monasteries of Mount Athos, and (d) the special importance of Mount Athos for world culture and Orthodoxy in particular, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 113.
4. By presidential decree issued upon the recommendation of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and following the consent of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School under article 3 of Royal Decree of May 8/17, 1958 (A' 81), specific matters concerning teaching staff, students and student-related issues are determined, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 114.
5. By joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Finance, any specific matter relating to the conclusion and terms of the contracts provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 115 are regulated, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the same article.
6. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy:
 - (a) The following are determined:
 - (aa) the sub-criteria for each category of criteria, their weighting in evaluation points, the supporting documents accompanying the candidates' applications, the content and process of the candidates' interviews before the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, and any specific matter relating to the ranking and selection process for candidates, in accordance with paragraph 6 of article 117 and paragraph 6 of article 127,
 - (ab) any specific matter relating to the format of the exams or skills test, the procedure for submitting applications to participate in the exams, the selection of topics, the procedure, the dates for exams, the competent bodies responsible for conducting the exams, the release of results and the evaluation of candidates, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 123,

(b) The curriculum and timetable of public general secondary education, followed by Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, is amended to include ecclesiastical specialization subjects serving to achieve the general and specific purpose and the individual objectives of article 110, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 124,

(c) The application of the Item Bank of Graded Difficulty may be extended to the exam topics referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 4 of article 124, in accordance with the second sentence of the same paragraph.

7. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy and the Centre for the Greek Language, the following are determined: (a) the requirements for inclusion in the categories listed in points (a) to (c) of paragraph 5 of article 123, (b) the percentage of places per category, (c) the necessary supporting documents, (d) the selection procedures, (e) the need to operate reception classes, (f) their organization and operation, (g) the requirements for enrolling students in these classes, (h) the subjects taught, their content and teaching hours, (i) the method and procedure for assessing students, (j) the requirements for successful completion, (k) the staffing of these classes with teaching personnel, and (l) any other relevant matter, in accordance with paragraph 6 of article 123.
8. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Centre for the Greek Language, matters relating to the teaching of ecclesiastical specialization subjects concerning the study of the Greek language, as reflected in ecclesiastical texts throughout its historical development, are regulated, in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 124.
9. By joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the requirements, terms and procedures for the recruitment of teachers of the languages referred to in the first sentence of paragraph 2 of article 125, as well as any other relevant detail, are determined by way of derogation from the applicable provisions, in accordance with the third sentence of that paragraph.
10. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education:
 - (a) The provisions relating to the benefits and accommodations for male and female students are adapted to the specific operating conditions of Ecclesiastical Schools, in accordance with article 126,
 - (b) The following are determined: (a) the specific eligibility requirements for each category, (b) the percentage of places per category, (c) the necessary supporting documents, (d) the selection procedures, and (e) any other relevant matter, in accordance with paragraph 7 of article 123,
 - (c) The following may be provided for:
 - (ca) the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 130 and paragraph 1 of article 131 may be adapted to the specific operating conditions of Ecclesiastical Schools, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 130 and paragraph 2 of article 131, respectively,
 - (cb) other duties related to the work of the School Board may be assigned to it, and any other specific matter arising during the performance of these duties may be regulated, in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 133,

(cc) the holidays and events at Ecclesiastical Schools may be determined, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 135.

11. By joint decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister competent in each case, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Ecclesiastical Schools are connected with the relevant bodies, and the same decision determines the nature of such connection, as well as the relevant requirements and procedure, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 129.
12. By joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs, Health, and Environment and Energy, the requirements, conditions, supporting documents, format and any other specific matter relating to the granting of a license for the establishment and operation of a student residence are determined, in accordance with paragraph 6 of article 134.

CHAPTER B

CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOLS

Article 138

Post-secondary ecclesiastical education

Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools provide post-secondary ecclesiastical clergy training as decentralized services of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and are supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.

Article 139

Purpose of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

The sole purpose of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is the education of prospective clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as defined in article 3 of the Constitution, who possess a high level of education and ecclesiastical integrity, and who are committed to democratic values, so that they may serve in Greece or in the Greek communities abroad.

Article 140

Apprenticeship Diploma

1. Graduates of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are awarded an apprenticeship diploma, which corresponds to Level 5 of the National Qualifications Framework.
2. The apprenticeship diploma is a prerequisite for appointment to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest, following his ordination in accordance with the sacred canons of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, in parishes located in villages or towns with a population of up to forty thousand (40,000) inhabitants. As an exception, holders of an apprenticeship diploma may be appointed to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest in parishes located in towns with a population of more than forty thousand (40,000) inhabitants, provided that no candidates come forward who hold a degree from a domestic Higher Education Institution or a legally recognized degree from a foreign Higher Education Institution, or who are graduates of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies. Clergy who hold an apprenticeship diploma, following their appointment, advance through the Pay Grades of the Secondary Education category, starting at Pay Grade 1 and ending at Pay Grade 13, as provided in article 9 of Law 4354/2015 (A' 176).
3. The acquisition of an apprenticeship diploma does not confer upon the holder the right to appointment to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest.

4. As an exception, a clergy may be appointed to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest without having obtained an apprenticeship diploma in settlements with a population of fewer than two thousand (2,000) inhabitants, belonging to a remote or island Metropolis, provided that all of the following conditions are: (a) he is over thirty (30) years of age and not over fifty (50) years of age, (b) he is married, and (c) he holds a leaving certificate from a General Ecclesiastical High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), an Ecclesiastical High School under this Law, a General High School, or a leaving certificate or diploma from a Vocational High School, or an equivalent secondary education qualification from Greece or abroad. The clergy is required to remain in the position to which he was appointed for ten (10) years and is not permitted to be seconded, transferred or, in general, reassigned during this period. Following his appointment, he is enrolled in a Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of his choice, in addition to the number of admitted students, and must, within seven (7) years from the publication of his appointment in the Government Gazette, submit the apprenticeship diploma to the competent authorities; otherwise, he is automatically dismissed. The place where the apprenticeship is carried out, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of article 143, is considered to be the cleric's post in the permanent position to which he was appointed. By decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the clergy may be permitted to take distance learning, whether synchronous or asynchronous, for specific or all theoretical courses of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School in which he has enrolled.
5. Paragraph 2 does not affect the provisions that establish a higher education qualification as a prerequisite for appointment to a vacant permanent position as a parish priest.

Article 141

Establishment, Organization and Operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. By joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools shall be established in Athens, Ioannina and Crete. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be abolished, their operation may be suspended, or their seat may be transferred, the effective date of the abolition, suspension of operation or transfer of the seat, as well as specific matters concerning the employment status of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools' staff, matters relating to the management and disposal of its technical and material infrastructure, and any other specific matter are also determined.
2. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following an opinion of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the operating regulations of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are established, which are a prerequisite for the beginning of their operation.

Article 142

Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School

1. A Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is established and operates at the institution named "Rizarios Ecclesiastical School", following the approval of the Multi-member Council and in accordance with the provisions of this law, which has as its sole purpose the education of prospective clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, who possess

a high level of education and ecclesiastical integrity, in accordance with the will of its founders. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is subject to the provisions of this law in all matters relating to teaching staff, students and academic matters and is supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is housed in a building within the institution's campus complex, in accordance with a decision of its Multi-member Council, which also determines its outdoor area.

2. By Presidential Decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the approval of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the specific matters concerning the teaching staff, students and academic matters are determined. The approval of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is considered to have been granted upon the expiry, without action, of three (3) months from the date on which it is requested by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs. In this case, the Presidential Decree is issued following the opinion of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

Article 143

Educational programs of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. The duration of studies at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is two (2) years. The curriculum consists of theoretical courses, clerical apprenticeship and a graduation thesis.
2. The theoretical courses include: a) common compulsory courses related to the principles of the rule of law, the operation of Public Administration and the exercise of administrative duties in Parishes, b) common compulsory courses related to the liturgical duties of the spiritual-religious minister and the exercise of clerical duties, and c) elective courses related to the teaching role of the religious minister-pastor, which may differ among the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools in terms of title and content or number of teaching hours, without, however, altering the total number of teaching hours prescribed by the curriculum. The educational and teaching material for the theoretical courses of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is developed by the Institute of Educational Policy and distributed electronically or in print by the Computer Institute and Press "DIOPHANTUS", following approval by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.
3. The apprenticeship takes place in the Holy Churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ and other ecclesiastical premises or institutions of the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete or the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese. It may also be held in Holy Churches or ecclesiastical premises or institutions belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate or the Patriarchate of Alexandria or the Patriarchate of Jerusalem or the Patriarchate of Antioch or the Archdiocese of Sinai and are located outside the territory of Greece. All expenses related to the completion of the apprenticeship are not borne by the State Budget.
4. A graduation thesis is assigned after the successful completion of all theoretical courses and is carried out in parallel with the apprenticeship during the second year of studies.
5. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the following are determined: (a) The timetables and curricula of the theoretical courses and the student evaluation process. The recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education describes: (aa) clearly formulated intended learning outcomes, broken down into

knowledge, skills and competences by course, (ab) course curriculum, structured in accordance with the intended learning outcomes of each course, (ac) teaching guidelines, including teaching techniques, teaching methods and appropriate audiovisual aids. (b) Any matter related to the conduct of the clerical apprenticeship and, in particular, the obligations and rights of students, the intended objectives and the student evaluation process.

6. By decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, all relevant details relating to the completion of the graduation thesis are determined.

Article 144

Eligibility for Enrolment in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. Greek citizens are eligible to enroll in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools provided they hold a leaving certificate from a General Ecclesiastical High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), a General Ecclesiastical High School under this Law, a General High School, or a leaving certificate or diploma from a Vocational High School, or an equivalent from a secondary education school in Greece or abroad, possess the qualifications to be ordained as clergy, and have fulfilled their military obligations or have been lawfully exempted from them. The fulfilment of military obligations or lawful exemption from them is proven by a Type A' military service status certificate.
2. Greeks residing abroad are eligible to enroll in the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, provided they have reached the age of eighteen (18) years, hold qualifications equivalent to those referred to in paragraph 1, and are eligible to be ordained as clergy.
3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, foreign nationals who are citizens of countries within or outside the European Union may be permitted to enroll, provided that they have reached the age of eighteen (18) years and hold qualifications equivalent to those referred to in paragraph 1. The same decision also determines the terms, conditions and enrolment procedure, the selection criteria, the supporting enrolment documents; tuition fees may be established and their amount for citizens of countries outside the European Union, and any other specific matters are regulated.

Article 145

Admission of students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. The admission of students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools takes place following a selection process conducted in two (2) stages. In the first stage, oral interviews of the candidates are conducted. Successful candidates proceed to the second stage, during which they take a written examination.
2. To conducting the selection process, a five-member Selection Committee is established for each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School. Each committee consists of: (a) three (3) members appointed by the Standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece for the Athens and Ioannina Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and by the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete, and one of the three members is a physician specializing in psychiatry, (b) one faculty (1) member of a Theological School in Greece or one (1) teacher of the PE01 teaching category of general secondary education or Ecclesiastical Schools and (c) one (1) faculty member of a School of Philosophy in Greece or one (1) teacher of the PE02 teaching category of general secondary education or Ecclesiastical Schools, appointed by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.

Participation in the Selection Committee is unpaid. The committee is established by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.

3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the following are determined:
 - (a) The number of students to be admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools. In the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the number of students to be admitted is determined by decision of the Minister of Education, issued upon the recommendation of the Multi-member Council.
 - (b) The timeframe, method and procedure for the submission of candidates' applications.
 - (c) The common date for the written exams for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.
 - (d) Any detail relating to the operation of the Selection Committees of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.
 - (e) Any specific matter relating to the interview process, the topics covered in the exam and the grading of the written exams.
 - (f) Any other specific matter relating to the selection process.
4. To participate in the selection process, candidates submit an application along with the following supporting documents: (a) a curriculum vitae, (b) the qualifications referred to in paragraph 1 of article 144, and (c) a certificate from a Metropolitan of the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete or the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, certifying that they possess the qualifications required to be ordained as clergy.

Article 146

First stage of student selection

1. The Selection Committee assesses the candidate's overall character and personality, his inclination towards priesthood, and his ability to live up to the principles that inspire Orthodoxy and the Holy Clergy.
2. The Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School compiles a list of successful candidates from the first stage and sends it to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations, which posts it on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The Selection Committee of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School also sends the list referred to in the first sentence to the institution's Multi-member Council.

Article 147

Second stage of student selection

1. Candidates are tested in writing on the following subjects: (a) Greek History and (b) Religious Studies. The written exams are graded on a scale from one (1) to twenty (20), and candidates are considered successful if they have a score of at least ten (10) in each subject examined.
2. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education selects the common exam topics and issues instructions and clarifications to the Selection Committee concerning the method for grading written exams.
3. Teachers of the Ecclesiastical Schools, appointed by decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, grade the written exams. The Selection Committee of each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School compiles the list of successful candidates and sends it to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education compiles the list of admitted students to each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School and sends it to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The list of admitted students to each Clergy

Candidate Apprenticeship School is approved by the Secretary General for Religious Affairs and posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The list of admitted students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is also sent to the institution's Multi-member Council.

4. Successful candidates are admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools in descending order of scores until the number of admissions specified in the decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of point (a) of paragraph 3 of article 145. Transfer of an admitted student to another Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is not permitted.
5. If, after the list of admitted students is ratified, vacancies arise, or such vacancies arise due to a successful candidate's failure to enroll, each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School shall announce, through its website, the number of vacancies that have arisen. In this case, any successful candidate, who has not been admitted, is entitled, within fifteen (15) days of the notification under the first point, to submit an application to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education requesting that the vacancy be filled based on their score. The vacancy is filled by decision of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, upon recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.
6. If vacancies arise due to the departure of admitted students within two (2) months of the start of the academic year, the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School announces on its website the number of vacancies that have arisen and shall invite, by email, all successful candidates who have not been admitted to submit an application to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education requesting to fill the vacancy within three (3) working days from the date of the invitation. The vacancy is filled by decision of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, upon recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, based on the scores received by the candidates.

Article 148

Teaching Staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. Theoretical courses at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be taught by professors of Higher Education Institutions, in particular those of Theological Schools, the teaching staff of the clerical studies programs of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, teachers of public general or ecclesiastical secondary education who hold a master's specialization degree or a doctoral degree, and clergy who hold a permanent position as a parish priest, possess the qualifications required for appointment to public secondary education, and hold a master's specialization degree or a doctoral degree.
2. A call for applications from the Secretary General for Religious Affairs is posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, following recommendations by the Directors of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, inviting interested parties who possess the legally prescribed qualifications and wish to teach at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools to submit an application, accompanied by the necessary supporting documents, within the deadline specified in the call. The application is accompanied by a curriculum vitae, which sets out the applicant's studies, publications and other work.
3. Candidates for teaching the theoretical courses are selected by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.
4. Selected teachers of public general secondary education may be seconded, by decision of the competent body of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, for three (3) years, or assigned to complete their teaching hours at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School. Selected faculty members of Higher Education Institutions or the teaching staff of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies are employed in accordance with the relevant provisions governing teaching duties. Selected clergy are assigned to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School by decision of the competent body of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, following

the consent of the Metropolitan of the Metropolis to which they belong, for a term of three (3) years. The teaching staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are not entitled to additional compensation from the State.

5. The teaching and working hours of the Director and the other teaching staff serving at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.
6. Clerical apprenticeship is conducted exclusively under the responsibility of the clergy.
7. The criteria, the procedure, including an interview, and any other matter relating to the selection process for teaching staff of the theoretical courses are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

Article 149

Governing Bodies of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

The governing bodies of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are, at the national level, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and, at the level of the educational unit, the Director.

Article 150

Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School

1. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is a clergy who holds a permanent position as a parish priest in a Holy Metropolis within the territory of Greece, a member of the school's teaching staff, and is appointed by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a reasoned recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. The term of office is three (3) years and may be renewed. The Director receives the salary corresponding to the permanent position and the allowance provided for in article 16 of Law 4354/2015 (A' 176) for holding the position of Director of a public Vocational Training Institute. In particular, candidates for the position of Director at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is interviewed by the Multi-member Council of the Institution prior to the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, which may also be conducted remotely via teleconference. The Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School promptly sends its opinion on each candidate to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, without ranking them. The Multi-member Council may raise a specific and fully reasoned objection to the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education within an exclusive deadline of three (3) working days from the day following its notification to the Council of the Institution. In this case, the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations shall decide, and the first sentence shall then apply.
2. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, in particular, has the following competences:
 - a) Coordinates and is responsible for the smooth administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School,
 - b) Ensures and is responsible:
 - ba) for compliance with the laws, decisions, instructions and circulars issued by the competent administrative bodies,
 - bb) for timely and reliable communication and cooperation with the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs,

so as to resolve any issue relating to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School,

c) assigns specific duties to the teaching staff relating to the overall educational work of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, the implementation of innovative educational programs and activities, as well as the implementation of programs for the utilization of new technologies and information technology,

d) Grants the staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School their statutory leave.

The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School is also responsible for any other matter related to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.

3. If the Director is unable to perform his duties or is temporarily absent, he shall designate a member of the teaching staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School to act as his deputy.

4. If the Director resigns or dies before the end of his term of office, a member of the teaching staff shall be selected as Director for the remainder of the term of office, in accordance with the provisions hereof.

5. The specific responsibilities of the Directors of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education.

6. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School notifies the Multi-member Council of the Institution of the leaves of absence that he grants pursuant to point (d) of paragraph 2.

7. The Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School submits, every six months, to the Multi-member Council of the Institution a report on activities concerning the operation of the School, which he notifies to the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 151

Accommodation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be accommodated in buildings provided for use free of charge and owned by Holy Metropolises, Holy Parishes, Holy Monasteries, ecclesiastical institutions, non-profit institutions, first- or second-level local government entities, or the State, subject to the last sentence of paragraph 1 of article 142. Holy Metropolises, Holy Parishes, Holy Monasteries, ecclesiastical institutions and non-profit institutions are exempt from the obligation to pay any kind of taxes and fees on real estate which they provide free of charge to house the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.

2. Any specific matter relating to the accommodation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is regulated by joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and of Environment and Energy, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, as well as the Multi-member Council specifically for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School.

Article 152

Medical and Hospital Expenses of Students

The State covers the medical and hospital expenses of the students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, provided they are not directly or indirectly insured. By joint decision of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, Education and Religious Affairs, Health and Finance, the relevant details shall be regulated.

Article 153

Admission to Theological Schools and to the Clergy Studies Programs of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies

1. Holders of the apprenticeship diploma of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be admitted to Departments of Theological Schools in Greece or to the Clergy Studies Programs of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, exclusively through placement exams conducted under the responsibility of the host institutions.
2. The placement exams consist of an exam with essay questions on three (3) courses from the host institution's curriculum. In the selection of candidates, the transparency and integrity of the process are ensured. The ranking of candidates is determined by the aggregate score from all the courses in which they are examined. This ranking includes those who have obtained a total score of at least thirty (30) points, provided that they have obtained at least ten (10) points in each of the three (3) courses. Ranking is based on descending order of scores until the specified percentage is filled.
3. By decision of the competent bodies of the host institutions, admitted candidates may, upon their request, be exempted from the obligation to enroll in and attend courses in the curriculum, both compulsory and elective, whose content they have been fully or sufficiently taught at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, but under no circumstances may they be exempted from the obligation to take exams in these courses, in accordance with the provisions of the curriculum. Exempt from the examination requirement are those courses in which they were examined for admission.
4. The competent bodies of the host institutions decide on the examination conduct and determine the requirements, terms, admission and registration procedure, the time and place of the exams, the subjects to be tested, the number of students to be admitted and any other specific matter.
5. The placement exams for holders of the apprenticeship diploma of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are exclusively governed by the provisions of this.

Article 154

Funding of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

The operating expenses, expenses for educational materials and equipment, and routine maintenance expenses for the buildings in which the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools operate are borne by the Regular Budget or the Public Investment Program of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The expenses referred to in the first excerpt for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is covered by the Institution's annual budget.

Article 155

Supervisory Board for the Operation of Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, a three-member Supervisory Board may be established to support the administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and its competences shall be determined therein. The term of office for members is two years, and the Board shall comprise: (a) the local Metropolitan, as Chair, along with his lawful alternate, (b) the Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, with his alternate in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 150, and (c) a prominent member of the local community, designated by the Standing Holy Synod, with his alternate.
2. The Multi-member Council exercises the competences of the Board to support the administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios

Ecclesiastical School and has general oversight of all buildings and the Holy Church on the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School estate. By decision of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and in cooperation with the Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, following approval of the Head of the Directorate of Religious Education and Interfaith Relations, artistic events, lectures, performances and participation in national or international competitions may be organized at the Institution's expense.

Article 156

Affiliation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools with Institutions

The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be affiliated with: (a) The Theological Schools and the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies of Greece, (b) research institutions, and (c) public-benefit foundations. The affiliation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, its content, the relevant requirements and the procedure are provided for by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation from the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. If the institution or public-benefit foundation falls under the jurisdiction or is supervised by another Ministry, a joint decision is issued by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister competent in each case.

Article 157

Evaluation of the Educational Program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and their Staff

1. The evaluation concerns the effectiveness of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and the efficiency of the teaching staff, with the sole purpose of ensuring and continuously improving the quality of the educational work provided and of the educational outcomes.
2. At the end of the second year of study of each intake, an internal evaluation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is conducted. In particular, during the last fortnight of May, the graduating students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools evaluate, by means of special reports, the curriculum, the educational and teaching materials of the theoretical courses, the clerical apprenticeship and the teaching staff, including the Director.
3. During the period specified in the second sentence of paragraph 2, the Director of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School evaluates, in a special report, the curriculum, the educational and teaching materials of the theoretical courses and the clerical apprenticeship.
4. At the end of May every four years, an external evaluation is conducted by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and by the Church of Greece for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools of Athens and Ioannina, and by the Church of Crete for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete, in order to assess the schools' achievement of the objectives set out in paragraph 1. The internal evaluation reports referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 serve as the basis for the external evaluation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools. On the basis of the evaluation report, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education issues an opinion or makes recommendations to the Secretary General for Religious Affairs on matters falling within the subject of the evaluation.
5. The external evaluation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School is conducted both by the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. On the basis of the evaluation report, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education issues an

opinion or makes recommendations to the Secretary General for Religious Affairs on matters falling within the subject of the evaluation.

6. The procedure, manner and methods of evaluation, as well as any other detail concerning the evaluation of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and their staff, are determined by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete.

Article 158

Residences for Students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. Room and board needs of the students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are covered by the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete.
2. At each Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, a students' residence may be established and operated to meet the room and board needs of the students.
3. Since their establishment, students' residences have operated under the responsibility of the legal entity under private law "Ecclesiastical Education Residence". The Board of Directors of the legal entity under private law "Ecclesiastical Education Residence" issues the operating regulations for the students' residence, which regulates any detail concerning its administration and operation. These regulations take effect upon their publication in the official monthly bulletin of the Church of Greece, "Ekklesia", or in the official monthly bulletin of the Church of Crete, "Apostolos Titos".
4. It is not permitted to cover room and board needs of students of Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools in the same premises where an Ecclesiastical School or an Ecclesiastical School students' residence operates.
5. A residence may be established and operated within the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School to meet room and board needs of its students, by decision of the institution's Multi-member Council and under its responsibility. All expenses for the operation of the residence are borne by the institution. The operating regulations for the residence are determined by decision of the Multi-member Council, which must be mandatorily notified to the Directorate for Religious Education and Interfaith Relations and posted on the websites of the institution and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School.

Article 159

Regulation of Matters Concerning the Organization and Operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, matters relating to the following are regulated:

- (a) The beginning and end of the academic year, public holidays and school holidays of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools,
- (b) Enrolment, attendance, disciplinary penalties, conduct evaluation, and academic degrees awarded by the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools,
- (c) The procedure, grounds and bodies that decide on the suspension of classes or their completion by extending the teaching year of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools,
- (d) The organization of student life, and
- (e) Any other detail relating to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools.

Article 160

Beginning of Operation of Ecclesiastical Schools and Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. The existing General Ecclesiastical High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools–Junior High Schools are converted into Ecclesiastical Schools, in accordance with the provisions hereof. The Ecclesiastical Schools shall begin operating as of the 2022–2023 school year, unless otherwise specified by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.
2. The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools shall begin operating as of the 2023–2024 academic year, unless otherwise specified by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 161

Matters Concerning the General Ecclesiastical High Schools of Vella, Ioannina, and the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete

1. The General Ecclesiastical High School of Vella and the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete (General Ecclesiastical High School–Junior High School of Chania), under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), shall operate until the end of the 2021–2022 school year. Students of these schools shall enroll for the 2022–2023 school year in a public secondary school or another Ecclesiastical School of their choice.
2. As of the 2023–2024 academic year, the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Vella shall operate at the General Ecclesiastical High School of Vella, and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of Crete shall operate at the Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School of Crete, in accordance with the provisions hereof.

Article 162

Time Limit for Issuing an Opinion, Proposal or Recommendation

Where the provisions of this Part require an opinion, recommendation or proposal from a competent body, such opinion, recommendation or proposal shall, unless otherwise specified by specific provisions, be issued no later than within an exclusive time limit of two (2) months from the submission of the relevant question or the notification of the relevant matter. Otherwise, the act may be issued directly by the decision-making body.

Article 163

Authorizing Provisions

1. By joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are established in Athens, Ioannina and Crete, in accordance with the first sentence of paragraph 1 of article 141.
2. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, upon the recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education:
 - (a) The Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may be abolished, their operation suspended, or their location relocated; the effective date of such abolition, suspension of operation or relocation of their location may be determined, as well as specific matters concerning the service status of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools' staff, matters relating to the management and allocation of their technical and material infrastructure, and any other specific matter, in accordance with the second sentence of paragraph 1 of article 141.

(b) The operating regulations of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are established, which are a prerequisite for the beginning of their operation, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 141.

(c) The following are determined:

(ca) the timetables and detailed curricula for the theoretical courses and the evaluation process of students, in accordance with point (a) of paragraph 5 of article 143,

(cb) any matter relating to the conduct of clerical apprenticeship, and in particular the obligations and rights of students, the intended objectives and the student evaluation process, in accordance with point (b) of paragraph 5 of article 143,

(cc) the number of students to be admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (a) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(cd) the timeframe, method and procedure for submitting candidates' applications, in accordance with point (b) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(ce) the common date of the written examinations for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (c) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(cf) any detail relating to the operation of the Selection Committees of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (d) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(cg) any specific matter relating to the interview procedure, the topics covered in the examination and the grading of written exams, in accordance with point (e) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(ch) any other specific matter relating to the selection process, in accordance with point (f) of paragraph 3 of article 145,

(ci) the criteria, the procedure, including an interview, and any other matter relating to the selection process for teaching staff of the theoretical courses, in accordance with paragraph 7 of article 148,

(cj) the specific competences of the Directors of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 150,

(ck) the beginning and end of the academic year, public holidays and school holidays of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (a) of article 159,

(cl) enrolment, attendance, disciplinary penalties, conduct evaluation and academic degrees awarded by the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (b) of article 159,

(cm) the procedure, grounds and bodies that decide on the suspension of classes or their completion by extending the teaching year of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (c) of article 159,

(cn) the organization of student life, in accordance with point (d) of article 159, and

(co) any other detail relating to the operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with point (e) of article 159.

(d) The attendance of foreign nationals, whether citizens of Member States or non-Member States of the European Union, who have reached the age of eighteen (18) and hold qualifications equivalent to those of paragraph 1 of article 144, is permitted. The same decision also determines the terms, conditions and enrolment procedure, the selection criteria and the enrolment documents; tuition fees may be established, and their amount may be determined, for citizens of countries outside the European Union; and any other specific matter is regulated, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 144.

3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the affiliation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, its content, the relevant conditions and the procedure are provided for, in accordance with the first excerpt of article 156. If the body or charitable foundation falls under the jurisdiction or is supervised by another Ministry, a joint

decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and the Minister competent in each case is issued, in accordance with the second excerpt of the same article.

4. By presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the consent of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, specific matters concerning the teaching staff, students and academic matters are determined, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 142.
5. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Multi-member Council of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, the number of students to be admitted to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School are determined, in accordance with point (a) of paragraph 3 of article 145.
6. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs:
 - (a) The teaching and working hours of the Director and the other teaching staff serving at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are determined, in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 148,
 - (b) A three-member supervisory committee may be established to support the administrative operation of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, and its competences are determined, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 155.
7. By joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Environment and Energy, upon the recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, as well as by the Multi-member Council for the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School, any specific matter relating to the housing of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is regulated, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 151.
8. By joint decision of the Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, Education and Religious Affairs, and Finance, the details relating to the State's coverage of the medical, pharmaceutical and hospital expenses of students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools are regulated, provided they are not directly or indirectly insured, in accordance with article 152.
9. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a specifically reasoned recommendation from the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete, the procedure, manner, methods and any other detail relating to the evaluation of the educational program of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools and their staff are determined, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 157.
10. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, a different beginning date may be set for the operation of the Ecclesiastical Schools and the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 160, respectively.

CHAPTER C

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS OF PART E'

Article 236

Transitional Provision on the Composition of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education

Until the selection and placement of the Education Councilors of the PE01 Theologians category, Coordinators of Educational Work of the PE 01 Theologians category, are appointed for the composition of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, in accordance with point (c) of paragraph 2 and point (c) of paragraph 3 of article 111.

Article 237

Transitional Provisions for Teachers and Principals of General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools

1. Permanent teachers serving in a permanent position at General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14) during the 2020–2021 school year continue to serve at these schools until the end of the 2021–2022 school year.
2. As of the entry into force of this Law, the special procedure laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4 applies, by way of derogation from the provisions in force, for the transfer of the permanent positions of permanent teachers in ecclesiastical secondary education to general secondary or primary education.
3. The permanent position of permanent teachers of ecclesiastical schools is transferred, by decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, to the transfer area of secondary or primary education for the common categories and specializations of primary and secondary education, in which the ecclesiastical school is geographically located.
4. The placement of the teachers referred to in paragraph 3 is carried out by decision of the Director of Education, upon the recommendation of the relevant service council, in one of the five (5) schools, based on the relevant preference statements submitted to the respective Directorate of Education to which the position is transferred. If more teachers of ecclesiastical schools express the same school preferences during the above procedure, they are compared only with one another, based on the total number of transfer points and their preference statements. If there is no vacant permanent position in any of the five (5) schools, these teachers are asked to state their school preferences before the placement process of surplus teachers and in subsequent school years, until they fill a permanent position. These placements take absolute priority over the placement of surplus teachers to a vacant permanent position in a school within the transfer area to which their post has been transferred.
5. Specifically for the 2022–2023 school year, permanent teachers of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006 may apply to participate in the selection process for an Ecclesiastical School, in accordance with articles 117 and 127 of this Law, concurrently with the process for the transfer of their permanent position provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this article.
6. By way of derogation from the provisions in force, permanent teachers of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006 have the right to request their transfer to Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete or the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese. Upon acceptance of their application by the relevant Metropolitan, their transfer is effected by joint decision of the competent bodies of the Ministries of Education and Religious Affairs, Finance and Interior.
7. The principals of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006 serving at the time of entry into force of this Law continue to perform their duties until new Principals are appointed to the Ecclesiastical Schools, in accordance with paragraph 12 of article 117 hereof. Paragraphs 2 to 6 of this article also apply to the Principals of ecclesiastical schools under Law 3432/2006.
8. With regard to personnel matters of the teaching staff of General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, and until the decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs referred to in paragraph 3 enters into force, the Service Council for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education under article 25 of Law 3432/2006 remains competent, without prejudice to paragraph 1 of article 240.
9. Permanent teachers of the Ecclesiastical High School of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School are included in the process of transfer of their permanent positions from the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School to general secondary education, in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 5. Their salaries are covered by the regular budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 238

Transitional Provisions Regarding Enrollment, Room and Board for Students of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 and the Housing of Ecclesiastical Schools

1. Students who, during the school year in which this Law takes effect, are enrolled in the Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14) are not subject to the examinations referred to in paragraph 2 of article 123 hereof for admission to the first grade of the Ecclesiastical High School, but only to the in-school graduation examinations.
2. The Ecclesiastical Schools are housed in the same buildings where, as of the effective date of this Law, the currently operating General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 are housed, under free concession to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. If these buildings do not meet the requirements of paragraph 3 of article 115, they are repaired or reconstructed, at the initiative of the owner of the property, within seven (7) years from the effective date of this Law, and the related expenses are covered by national or European Union funds of the central government or the Local Government Authorities.
3. Within nine (9) years from the entry into force of the joint ministerial decision referred to in paragraph 6 of article 134 hereof, the existing boarding facilities referred to in the fifth subparagraph of paragraph 2 of article 26 of Law 3432/2006, which provide room and board for students of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools, must obtain the operating license referred to in paragraph 5 of article 134 hereof. The necessary work to ensure that the existing buildings of these boarding facilities meet the requirements of the joint ministerial decision of paragraph 6 of article 134 for the granting of the operating license is financed from national or European Union funds and carried out by the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete in cooperation with the company "Building Infrastructures S.A." or the relevant Local Government Authorities.

Article 239

Transitional Provisions for the Administrative and Operational Support Staff of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006

1. Permanent staff or staff employed under indefinite-term employment contracts who are responsible for the administrative and operational support of the General Ecclesiastical High Schools – Junior High Schools and General Ecclesiastical High Schools under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14) continue to provide their services in the positions they hold at the time of entry into force of this Law.
2. As of the effective date of this Law, the Regional Service Council for Administrative Personnel and the First-Instance Disciplinary Council referred to in sub-point (bb) of point (a) of paragraph 3 of the sixth article of Law 4057/2012 (A' 54) shall serve as the service and disciplinary council, respectively, for the personnel of paragraph 1 hereof. From the entry into force of this Law, the Service Council for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education under article 25 of Law 3432/2006 shall cease to have jurisdiction over service and disciplinary matters regarding the personnel of paragraph 1 hereof.

Article 240

Other Transitional Provisions for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education

1. The term of office of the members of the Supervisory Council for Secondary Ecclesiastical Education referred to in article 24, as well as that of the members of the Service Council for

Secondary Ecclesiastical Education under article 25 of Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), shall expire upon the establishment of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, in accordance with article 111 of this Law.

2. For the purposes of implementing paragraph 3 of article 112, the period of three (3) consecutive school years, beginning with the 2022–2023 school year and thereafter, shall be taken into account.
3. The establishment of the new School Boards and the assumption of their duties, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 133, are completed within six (6) months from the entry into force of this Law. Until then, the School Boards operating at the time of entry into force of this Law continue to perform their duties. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, issued upon the recommendation of the Secretary General for Religious Affairs, the deadline specified in the first sentence may be extended only once.