

Law 5128/2024 (A' 118) "Provisions on the Digital Education Portal and the Digital Tutoring Platform, career guidance in secondary education, measures to support the education system in remote areas, and other provisions of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports"

CHAPTER VI

PROVISIONS ON ECCLESIASTICAL EDUCATION

Article 48

Model Ecclesiastical Schools – Amendment to article 109 of Law 4823/2021

Article 109 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning secondary ecclesiastical education, is amended as follows: a) the word "Model" is added before the words "Ecclesiastical Schools" and "Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools", b) the words "General Ecclesiastical High" are replaced by the words "Model Ecclesiastical High Schools", and c) a second paragraph is added, and article 109 is amended as follows:

"Article 109

Secondary Ecclesiastical Education

Secondary Ecclesiastical Education is provided at the Model Ecclesiastical Schools, Model Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools, and Model Ecclesiastical High Schools, which fall under the jurisdiction of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The 'Ecclesiastical Schools', 'Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools' and 'General Ecclesiastical High Schools' shall hereinafter be referred to as 'Model Ecclesiastical Schools', 'Model Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools' and 'Model Ecclesiastical High Schools', respectively."

Article 49

Admission of Students to Model Ecclesiastical Schools – Replacement of paragraph 2, amendment of paragraphs 5 and 6, and addition of paragraph 10 to article 123 of Law 4823/2021

1. Paragraph 2 of Article 123 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning the admission of students to Ecclesiastical Schools, is replaced as follows:

"2. The admission of students to the first grade of the Model Ecclesiastical Junior High School, or the admission of graduates of the third grade of a general secondary junior high school or an Ecclesiastical Junior High School, subject to paragraph 1 of article 238, to the first grade of the Model Ecclesiastical High School, takes place following examinations or a skills test: a) in the subjects specified by the decision of the second passage of paragraph 1 of article 18 of Law 4692/2020 (A' 111), and b) in the subject of Religious Education, and is completed upon the announcement of the results. By decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, issued following a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, any specific issues concerning the format of the exams or skills test, the procedure for submitting applications to participate in the exams, the procedure, timing and competent bodies responsible for conducting the

exams, and ensuring the integrity of the process and the results, taking into account the special nature of ecclesiastical education, are determined.”

2. In paragraph 5 of article 123 of Law 4823/2021 the following amendments are made: a) wherever reference is made to a “General Ecclesiastical High School”, this is replaced by “Model Ecclesiastical High School”, b) in the first passage: ba) the word “Model” is added before the words “Ecclesiastical Junior High School”, bb) the conjunction “or” is inserted between cases (a) and (b), bc) in case (b), after the words “operate abroad and” the words “their title” are added, bd) case (c) is deleted, and (c) in the second passage, the words “who are children of expatriate Greeks or foreign nationals of non-Greek origin” are replaced by the words “ of the first passage”, and paragraph 5 is amended as follows:

“5. By way of exception to paragraphs 1 to 4, up to a certain percentage per category in addition to the number of students to be admitted, students, who a) are children of expatriate Greeks or foreign nationals of non-Greek origin, or b) hold a diploma from a foreign school operating abroad, and their diploma grants them 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, may be admitted without examinations to the first grade of the Model Ecclesiastical Junior High School or Model Ecclesiastical High School. Specifically, for the admission of students referred to in the first paragraph to the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the approval of the Holy Community is required. Specifically, for the admission of students referred to in the first paragraph to the Rizarios Model Ecclesiastical High School, a decision of the Foundation’s Multi-member Council is required.”

3. Paragraph 6 of article 123 of Law 4823/2021 is amended as follows: a) the words “and the Centre for the Greek Language” are deleted, and b) in case (a), the words “to c)” are replaced by the words “and b)”, and paragraph 6 is replaced as follows:

“6. By decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, issued upon a recommendation of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education and an opinion of the Institute of Educational Policy, the following shall be determined: a) The eligibility requirements for the categories of cases (a) and (b) of paragraph 5, b) The percentage per category, c) The supporting documents required, d) The selection procedures, e) The need of reception classes operation, f) Their organization and operation, g) The conditions for enrolling students in these classes, h) The subjects taught, their content and the number of teaching hours, i) The method and procedure for assessing students, j) The requirements for successful attendance, k) The staffing of these classes with teaching personnel, and l) Any other relevant matter.”

4. In article 123 of Law 4823/2021, paragraph 10 is added as follows:

“10. By way of exception to paragraphs 1 to 9, students from schools abroad, who are recommended by Patriarchates, Holy Metropolises or Holy Monasteries abroad that are in communion with the Ecumenical Patriarchate, may be enrolled, without examinations, in any grade of the Model Ecclesiastical Schools. For the enrolment of these students in the Rizarios Model Ecclesiastical High School, a decision of the Foundation’s Multi-member Council is required, and for their enrolment in the Athonite Ecclesiastical Academy, the approval of the Holy Community is required.”

Article 51

Teaching of ecclesiastical specialization subjects at Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and Ecclesiastical High Schools – Amendment to paragraph 5 of article 124 of Law 4823/2021

In paragraph 5 of article 124 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning curricula, the words “and an opinion of the Centre for the Greek Language” are deleted, and paragraph 5 is amended as follows:

“5. By decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, issued upon a recommendation by the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, matters concerning the teaching of ecclesiastical specialization subjects that pertain to the study of the Greek language, as reflected throughout its historical development in ecclesiastical texts, are regulated.”

Article 52

Procedure for the Selection of Principals of Model Ecclesiastical Schools – Amendment of paragraphs 7 and 8 and replacement of paragraph 9 of article 117 of Law 4823/2021

Article 117 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning the principals of ecclesiastical schools, is amended as follows: a) in paragraph 7: aa) in the first passage, the words “The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education” are replaced by the words “The Regional Secondary Education Service Council of the candidate teacher’s permanent position for the post of school principal”, and before the word “posted”, the words “notified to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs and”, and after the word “Secondary”, the words “Education and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate” are added, ab) in the second passage, after the word “lists”, the words “before the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council” are added and, at the end, the words “on the website of the relevant Secondary Education Directorate”, ac) in the third passage, the words “the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education” are replaced by the words “the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council”, b) in paragraph 8 ba) the words “the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education” are replaced by the words “the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council”, bb) after the word “teachers”, the word “of” is added, bc) the word “who” is replaced by the words “as specified in the ministerial decision of paragraph 6, which is communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education and the relevant Directorate of Secondary Education, and”, bd) at the end, the words “and the relevant Directorate of Secondary Education” are added, and c) paragraph 9 is replaced, and paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of article 117 are amended as follows:

“7. The Regional Secondary Education Service Council for the permanent position of the candidate teacher for the post of the school principal shall, at a meeting held within five (5) days of the deadline for submitting applications, compile a single list, in alphabetical order, of the candidates who meet the requirement of paragraph 1, which shall be communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs and posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate. Candidates may file an appeal against the lists before the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council within an exclusive deadline of three (3) working days from the day following their posting on the website of the relevant Secondary Education Directorate. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council issues a reasoned decision on the appeals, revises the lists, and notifies the interested parties accordingly.

8. The relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council compiles, in accordance with the specific provisions of the announcement, a provisional ranking list of its teachers, based on the criteria set out in points (a) to (e) of paragraph 5, as specified in the ministerial decision referred to in paragraph 6, which is communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate, and is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate.

9. Candidates may file an appeal before the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council against the list referred to in paragraph 8 within an exclusive deadline of three (3) working days from the day after its posting on the website of the relevant Secondary Education Directorate. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council for the candidate's permanent position issues a reasoned decision on the appeals, revises the list, and sends it immediately to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, and notifies the interested parties accordingly. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education consolidates the lists, where applicable, provisional and revised submitted by the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Councils, into a single ranking list in descending order of evaluation, based on the points awarded to each candidate by the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council, and posts it on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The consolidated list is sent for posting to the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education and to the Directorates of Secondary Education."

Article 53

Procedure for the Selection of Teaching Staff at Model Ecclesiastical Schools – Amendment of paragraphs 7 and 8, replacement of paragraph 9 of article 127 of Law 4823/2021

Article 127 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning the selection of teaching staff for Ecclesiastical Schools, is amended as follows: a) in paragraph 7 aa) in the first passage, the words "The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education" are replaced by the words "The Regional Secondary Education Service Council of the candidate teacher's permanent position", before the word "posted", the words "notified to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate and" and after the word "Secondary", the words "of Education and the relevant Secondary Directorate", ab) in the second passage, after the word "objection", the words "before the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council" are added, and, at the end, the words "on the website of the relevant Secondary Education Directorate", ac) in the third passage, the words "the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education" are replaced by the words "the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council", b) in paragraph 8: ba) the words "the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education" are replaced by the words "the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council", bb) after the word "teachers", the word "of" is added, bc) the word "who" is replaced by the words "as specified in the ministerial decision of paragraph 6, which is communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate, and", bd) at the end of the passage, the words "and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate", and c) paragraph 9 is replaced, and paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of article 127 are amended as follows:

“7. The Regional Secondary Education Service Council for the permanent position of the prospective teacher, at a meeting held within five (5) days of the expiration of the deadline for submitting applications, compiles a list, in alphabetical order, of the candidates who meet the requirement of paragraph 4, which shall be communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate, and posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate.

Candidates who were not included may file an appeal before the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council against the list within an exclusive deadline of three (3) working days from the day after it is posted on the website of the relevant Secondary Education Directorate. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council issues a reasoned decision on the appeals, revises the list, and notifies the interested parties accordingly.

8. The relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council, then, compiles, in accordance with the provisions specified in the announcement, provisional evaluation ranking list of its teachers, based on the criteria set out in points (a) to (d) of paragraph 5, as specified in the ministerial decision of paragraph 6, which is communicated to the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate, and is posted on the websites of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education, and the relevant Secondary Education Directorate.

9. Candidates may file an appeal before the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council against the list of paragraph 8 within an exclusive deadline of three (3) working days from the day after it is posted on the website of the relevant Secondary Education Directorate. Within five (5) working days of receiving them, the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council issues a reasoned decision on the appeals, revises the list, and immediately sends it to the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, and notifies the interested parties accordingly. The Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education consolidates the lists, provisional and revised, where applicable, submitted by the relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Councils, into a single ranking list in descending order of evaluation, based on the points awarded to each candidate from their relevant Regional Secondary Education Service Council, and posts it on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The consolidated list is sent for posting to the Regional Directorates of Primary and Secondary Education and the Directorates of Secondary Education.”

Article 55

Applicable Legislation on Model Ecclesiastical Schools issues– Replacement of paragraph 1 of article 135 of Law 4823/2021

Paragraph 1 of article 135 of Law 4823/2021 (A’ 136), concerning the application of the legislation on public general secondary education, is replaced as follows:

“1. With regard to matters concerning Model Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools and Model Ecclesiastical High Schools that are not governed by the provisions of this law, the legislation on Model Schools shall apply and, supplementary, the legislation on public secondary education, by analogy and in accordance with the special nature of ecclesiastical education,

unless otherwise specified by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.”