

# What are schools like in different countries?

by Farren Linne, Carlos Orta,  
and Verona Kamberi  
Staff Writers



**“In Macedonia out of the whole class, roughly half of the students could care about their education, whereas the rest decide to wander off into la la land.”**

**Verona:**

As an Albanian born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska, I often get asked the question: ‘Why don’t you go to school in Macedonia?’ Hearing that question I often wonder why people would say that, do they think that the schooling system is better in Macedonia? Macedonia is a great place to visit don’t get me wrong, but it’s not the right place to get educated.

A student needs to have the motivation and put in the effort to do great in school. If the parent or teacher doesn’t care about the education the student is getting, then what more do you expect from the student?

In Macedonia out of the whole class, roughly half of the students could care about their education, whereas the rest decide to wander off into la la land. Parents are partially to blame for this happening. I’ve heard parents tell their kids to try their hardest and become someone, and then there are the ones who laugh at their child and tell them school is a waste of time and that they aren’t going to become anything. Tests are given to see how the students are doing, but they aren’t taken seriously. My mother used to go to school in Macedonia and she remembers how tough it was back in the 80’s. The teachers used to be really strict, lessons that were given were very difficult, and everything that was taught was controlled by a communist government. Nowadays in Macedonia, the students see school as a place where they could escape from home and be free. The education system has downgraded greatly, and it has gotten to the point where if you have the connections and the money you can pass anything.

The education system in the United States is better than Macedonia’s, but compared to Finland it falls short. The Finnish have a strategy of achieving excellence in education where they construct a comprehensive school system without tracking their students during their common basic education. They are more focused on the material sticking in the student’s brain, and not too worried about standardized tests and grades.

How is the education system in the US failing? I go to school everyday, do my work, and at the end of the day I am satisfied with what I have accomplished. I see nothing wrong with the system. The material that I am being taught is clearly taught to me by all my teachers, so I’m not saying anything bad about the education system in the US because I love it.

Every country out there has a different education system. Some might be better than the others, but we consider the education system in the US to be one of the better ones. Not everyone has the chance to be educated, which is why we should value the education we are provided and allow ourselves to utilize it.



**“The US has more focus to bring students from below proficient to proficient, rather than bringing students from proficient to advanced.”**

**Farren:**

As a teenage girl being born and raised in the small town of Ketchikan, Alaska, I’m pretty uneducated in the education of others around the world. Don’t get me wrong, I’ve travelled all over the US and even to Canada, but I’ve never once considered how sitting at a desk all day for six hours could be drastically different across the channel over in Metlakatla, but even more so 4,600 miles away in Europe.

I’ve always been a travel enthusiast and plan to travel the world, but I’ve never truly considered the differences that other countries could bring through their education systems. Is our system one of the best, or is it lower on the scale than one might think?

Having gone to school here in Ketchikan my entire life, I’m used to the basic schooling system that the United States follows. Students are offered free public schooling starting at preschool, and on to elementary school, middle school, and high school. We are also given free transportation to and from school.

Even though we have so much going for us, we still don’t value school like other places, such as Finland, commonly known to have an astounding education system. Why is it that they have such a great system? Do they place a greater value on their schooling system or are we just lazy?

Many places in the United States offer amazing education opportunities, but we spend more money on remedial classes rather than gifted and talented courses. The US has more focus to bring students from below proficient to proficient, rather than bringing students from proficient to advanced.

Having a remediation opportunity is extremely important, but gifted and talented programs are just as important and we are not putting these things on an equal level.

The United States has a great education system, but I believe we need to value school more and be willing to push ourselves to another level. While we are granted with the amazing opportunity to move on to college to further our education, we need to want it and be thankful for what we have in front of us.



**“First of all, the priorities in Mexico are much different than the ones here in the US. The majority of people tend to place work and jobs over education.”**

**Carlos:**

I was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, in Mexico and was raised there only for a couple months until my family decided to move to Ketchikan, Alaska. Aside from the fact that my dad had a stable job in the US, the opportunities presented here were far better than the ones we had in Mexico. The educational and work system would help my siblings and I grow up to be more successful, however, my family and I visit Mexico every summer and I can’t help but wonder what it would have been like if we hadn’t moved to the US.

First of all, the priorities in Mexico are much different than the ones here in the US. The majority of people tend to place work and jobs over education. Although many of them do understand that education can get you a better job and better salary, many people don’t have the time or money to maintain their family and attend school. Even though schooling is very good, and students are taught to learn not just memorize, the educational system is very selective when it comes to the students that qualify for full rides to universities and sometimes even high schools, and therefore usually ends most teen’s education early on. Some people that have attended school in both Mexico and the US describe schooling in Mexico to be very strict and draining. Even in preschool, there was no playtime, no nap time, just students sitting in a classroom with uncomfortable uniforms learning reading, writing, and math.

People in the US think the educational system is not as good in comparison to other countries, they think it’s broken, it’s unfair, blah blah blah. But having seen how hard it is to get a decent education in Mexico and how harsh it is, it seems like most people just want to find anything to complain about. There are so many nets and safety rails in the education system in the US to make sure that students don’t fall off, get left behind, or quit that it makes it so difficult to actually fail. In Mexico it’s nobody’s responsibilities but the student’s own. One bad decision or choice whether it’s made in elementary school or highschool, could potentially end a student’s education. That being said, Mexico isn’t even one of the worst when it comes to education.

United States	Macedonia	Mexico	Finland
<b>Population</b>			
<b>326.5 million</b>	<b>2.078 million</b>	<b>127 million</b>	<b>5.5 million</b>

### Demographics

Caucasians -76.96%	Macedonian -64.2%	Mestizo(Amerindian-Spanish) -62%	Finnish -93.4%
Hispanic -15.1%	Albanian -25.2%	Predominantly Amerindian -21%	Swede -5.6%

Look us up on:

Web: [kayhicurrent.com](http://kayhicurrent.com)

Twitter: @KayhiCurrent

