

IISS E. Vanoni Institute in Menaggio (CO)

For official communications and those valid for all students, please regularly consult the **CIRCOLARI (Circulars)** section on the Institute's website.

Furthermore, the Institute provides each student with a **personal email address** associated with the school system.

Finally, parents receive specific credentials for accessing the **Registro Elettronico (Electronic Register)**. Through this digital platform, it is possible to:

- **Justify students' absences and delays.**
- **View and digitally sign** the grades obtained by students following written, oral, or practical assessments.

The Italian School System

The **Scuola Secondaria di Secondo Grado** (also called "high school" or "upper secondary school") enrolls students from **14 to 19 years old** and lasts for **five years**.

It constitutes the second cycle of the education system and offers various pathways aimed at preparing students both for **university** and for **entry into the world of work**.

Structure and Types of Institutes

The second cycle of education is divided into two main pathways:

1. State Upper Secondary School (*Scuola Secondaria di Secondo Grado Statale*), which offers three types of institutes:

- **Licei (Lyceums):** These aim to provide a solid **cultural and methodological foundation** for continuing studies at university (e.g., Classical, Scientific, Linguistic, Human Sciences, Artistic, Musical and Choreutic).
- **Istituti Tecnici (Technical Institutes):** These offer a **technical-scientific and professional preparation**, aimed at preparing the student for university, Higher Technical Education (*Alta Formazione Tecnica* - ITS), or direct entry into the workforce in specific sectors (e.g., Economic Sector or Technological Sector).
- **Istituti Professionali (Professional Institutes):** These offer training more focused on **practical applications** and **immediate entry into the workforce**, with particular attention to arts, crafts, and strategic professions.

2. Vocational Education and Training (*Istruzione e Formazione Professionale - leFP*): These pathways are under **regional jurisdiction**, last three or four years, and confer a **Professional Qualification** (after 3 years) or a **Professional Diploma** (after 4 years). They are an alternative to the five-year high school to fulfill the obligation of instruction and training.

- After 3 years, the **Professional Qualification** is obtained (level 3 of the European Qualifications Framework - EQF).
- After 4 years, the **Professional Technician Diploma** is obtained (level 4 of the EQF).

Once an leFP qualification is obtained, various possibilities open up:

- **Professional Qualification (3 years):**
 - **Immediate Access to Work:** It is a nationally and European-recognized qualification for direct entry into the workforce.
 - **Continuation of Studies:** Possibility to enroll in a fourth year to obtain the Professional Diploma.
- **Professional Diploma (4 years):**
 - **Immediate Access to Work:** A technical qualification for employment entry.
 - **Continuation into Higher Education/Training System:** Access to Higher Technical Education (*Istruzione Tecnica Superiore* - ITS) pathways, which offer high-specialisation tertiary technical training.
 - **Return to the Five-Year Pathway (for the *Maturità*):** After the four-year Professional Diploma, it is possible to re-enter the state system (usually a Professional Institute) to attend the fifth year and sit the State Examination, thereby obtaining the Upper Secondary Education Diploma (which allows access to University).

At the end of the fifth year, students take the **Esame di Stato** (commonly called "**Maturità**"), the passing of which is necessary to obtain the **Upper Secondary Education Diploma**. The Diploma obtained after the 5 years is a legally recognized qualification that allows access to **any university faculty** or tertiary education pathways (such as ITS).

In Italy, there is a **compulsory education requirement**: This obligation lasts up to **10 years of total education** (and in any case, until the age of 16).

Promotion and Evaluation

Annual Evaluation and Promotion

Evaluation is expressed in **tenths (from 0 to 10)** for each subject and for conduct.

To be promoted to the next class, students must satisfy three main conditions:

- **Conduct Grade:** The student must have a conduct grade of **not less than 6/10**. A lower grade results in non-admission (failing).
- **Attendance:** The student must have attended at least **three-quarters of the total annual hours** (barring exceptions for serious reasons).
- **Sufficient Achievement:** The student must have a grade of **not less than 6/10 in every single subject**.

In cases where a student has a very high number of serious failures or a compromised learning situation, the Class Council may directly deliberate **non-admission to the next class (failing/repetition of the year)**, without suspending the judgment.

If a student achieves sufficiency in conduct and attendance but has **failures (grades below 6/10) in one or more subjects (maximum three subjects)**, the Class Council may deliberate the **suspension of judgment**.

In this case, the student is neither promoted nor failed but has a **"debit formativo" (learning debt)** in the insufficient subject. The school organizes **remedial interventions (summer courses)**, after which the student must take an **assessment (esame di riparazione - "remedial exam")**, usually at the end of August or beginning of September.

If the student passes the assessment, the judgment is resolved, and they are **promoted**. If they do not pass the assessment, or if the failures are deemed too serious and widespread by the Class Council to be overcome before the start of the next year, they are **failed (not admitted to the next class)**.

The State Examination (*Esame di Stato / Maturità*)

At the end of the fifth year, promotion occurs via the **State Examination** (commonly called *Maturità*), the final grade of which is expressed **in hundredths (maximum 100/100)**.

The final score is calculated by summing three components:

1. **Points accumulated during the final three years (III, IV, V year)** based on the average of grades and extracurricular activities (40 points).
2. **First Test:** Written Italian composition (20 points).
3. **Second Test:** Written composition on a subject characterizing the study path (20 points).
4. **Oral Interview:** Multidisciplinary interrogation and presentation of a personal formative experience (20 points). **TOTAL: 100 points**

To be admitted to the State Examination, the student must:

- Have a conduct grade of **not less than 6/10**.
- Have attended at least **three-quarters of the total annual hours**.
- Have **participated in the INVALSI Assessments** (which do not contribute to the grade but are mandatory for admission) administered during school hours.
- Have carried out the activities foreseen for the **PCTO (*Percorsi per le Competenze Trasversali e per l'Orientamento*)** - Pathways for Transversal Skills and Orientation, formerly Work-School Alternation).

The exam is passed with a **minimum grade of 60/100**. Deserving students who reach the maximum score (100) and have demonstrated excellence throughout the course may be awarded the **Lode (Honours/Distinction)**.