

RBM rights in public schools. Explanation of scores

Cluster 0 provides information about the system of religious/belief instruction in each country. Cluster A concerns countries with a system of teaching about religions/beliefs or a system of religious/belief instruction as a transversal subject. Cluster B contains the same questions with respect to countries with a system of teaching of religion. Cluster C takes into consideration the right to be exempted from religious instruction. Cluster D examines a few issues related to the right to manifest religion or belief (right to wear religious/belief symbols at school; official display of symbols by the school; exemption from teaching and attending classes on religious holidays; right to obtain food not forbidden by religious rules).

A coefficient of 0.50 was applied to questions 4 and 5. Questions 1 and 2 do not receive any score as they provide background information; therefore, they do not appear in the database

Additional information about how scores are awarded, and detailed indications of the applicable international standards are provided in the section “Policy areas. RBM rights in public schools”.

P-index

Cluster A and B

Question 3. Depending on the number of RBMs whose religion/belief can be taught, the following scores are given: 0, no RBM; 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; 0.66, 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs. In the countries where this teaching is provided only if requested by a minimum number of students (as in Finland and Romania), a coefficient of 0.5 applies.

Question 4. If the teaching is provided within the school timetable: score 1; if outside, score 0; N/A (for this and the following questions of these clusters) if no teaching is provided

Question 5. The same score (score 0) is given to states where instruction is provided for one or more hours per week; if there is no fixed number of hours and the teaching is occasional, -0.50.

Questions 6. If teachers are paid by State/school: score 1; if they are paid by RBM: 0. If they are paid by State/school only if there is a minimum number of students who attend the teaching: score 0.50.

Question 6.1. Depending on the number of RBMs whose teachers are paid by school/State the following scores are given: 0, no RBM; 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; 0.66, 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs.

Cluster C

Question 7. Countries with a system of teaching of religion: yes, score 0; no, score -1. Countries with a system of teaching about religions/beliefs: in both cases the score is 0 (exemption is not required by international standards). Religious instruction as a transversal subject: N/A. For a detailed discussion about the scoring, see the relevant paragraph of the section “What we are talking about” in the page “Policy areas. RBM rights in public schools”.

Question 7.1. Lacking international standards, the same score (score 0) is given in case students are obliged or not obliged to attend a different course. N/A if exemption is not granted.

Question 7.2. Depending on the number of RBMs whose members (students) enjoy the right, the following scores are given: -1, no RBM; -0.66, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; -0.33, 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; 0, more than 2/3 of RBMs. N/A if exemption is not granted.

Cluster D

Questions 8 and 8.1. No scores are given because there are no definite international standards (see the paragraph “Religious symbols” of the section “What we are talking about” in the page “Policy areas. RBM rights in public schools”). For this reason, the two questions do not appear in the database.

Question 9. Yes, score 1; no, score 0; if there are limits concerning specific religious/belief symbols or the students' age, score 0.50.

Question 9.1. Depending on the number of RBMs to which the students entitled to wear symbols belong, the following scores are given: 0, no RBM; 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; 0.66, 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs.

Question 10. Score 0, if the display of religious/belief symbols is forbidden (international standards are respected); score -0.50, if schools are obliged to display the symbols of the majority religion only; score 0.50, if there is no provision forbidding or allowing the display of religious/belief symbols. On the meaning of “officially displayed” see the section “Glossaries” of the page “Data”. For a detailed discussion about the scoring, see the relevant paragraph of the section “What we are talking about” in the page “Policy areas. RBM rights in public schools”.

Question 10.1. Depending on the number of RBMs whose symbols can be officially displayed, the following scores are given: 0, no RBM; 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; 0.66, 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs.

Questions 11-12. Yes, score 1; no, score 0.

Questions 11.1-12.1. Depending on the number of RBMs whose members (teachers or students) enjoy this right, the following scores are given: 0, no RBM; 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; 0.66, 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs.

Question 13. Yes, score 1; no, score 0; if there is no right but schools accommodate students' needs, score 0.50 (in the policy area “Spiritual assistance”, the same question concerning inmates' needs is scored differently because students can get access to food not forbidden by their religion or belief more easily than inmates).

Question 13.1. Depending on the number of RBMs whose students enjoy this right, the following scores are given: 0, no RBM; 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; 0.66, 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs.

E- and G-index

Only the questions with a score different from that given in the P-index are listed. A coefficient of 0.50 was applied to questions 4 and 5.

Cluster A and B

Question 3. Score 1 to each RBO whose doctrine is taught; score -1 to each RBO whose doctrine is not taught. Score 0.5 to each RBO whose doctrine is taught only if there is a minimum number of students who request the teaching.

Question 4. Score 1 to each RBO whose doctrine is taught within the school timetable; score -1 to each RBO whose doctrine is taught outside the timetable.

Question 6.1. Score 1 to each RBO whose teachers are paid by the school/state; score -1 to each RBO whose teachers are not paid by the school/state; score 0.50 to each RBO whose teachers are paid by State/school only if there is a minimum number of students who request the teaching. N/A if no teaching is provided.

Cluster C

Question 7.2. Teaching of religion: score 0 to each RBO whose members (students) enjoy the right; score -1 to each RBO whose members (students) do not enjoy this right. Teaching about religions/beliefs: N/A to each RBO if exemption is not granted (question 7); score 0 to each RBO whose members (students) enjoy the right if exemption is granted (question 7).

Cluster D

Question 9.1. Score 1 to each RBO whose members (students) have the right to wear religious/belief symbols at school; score -1 to each RBO whose members do not have the right to wear religious/belief symbols at school.

Question 10.1. Score 1 to each RBO whose symbols can be officially displayed at school; score -1 to each RBO whose symbols cannot be officially displayed at school.

Question 11.1. Score 1 to each RBO to which the teachers entitled to abstain from teaching on their religious holidays belong; score -1 to each RBO to which the teachers who do not enjoy this right belong. N/A if teachers are not entitled to abstain from teaching on their religious holidays (question 11).

Questions 12.1. Score 1 to each RBO to which the students entitled to abstain from school attendance on their religious holidays belong; score -1 to each RBO to which the students who do not enjoy this right belong. N/A if students are not entitled to abstain from school attendance on their religious holidays (question 12).

Question 13.1. Score 1 to each RBO whose members (students) can obtain food not forbidden by the dietary rules of their religion/belief; score -1 to each RBO whose members (students) cannot obtain food not forbidden by the dietary rules of their religion/belief. N/A if students do not have the right to obtain food not forbidden by the dietary rules of their religion (question 13).