

RBM RIGHTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EXPLANATION OF SCORES

CLUSTER A relates to the existence of religious/belief education in a country's public schools.

CLUSTER B concerns countries with a system of teaching about religions/beliefs or a system of religious/belief instruction as a transversal subject.

CLUSTER C contains the same questions with respect to countries with a system of teaching of religion.

CLUSTER D deals with the exemption from religious instruction.

CLUSTER E concerns the manifestations of freedom of religion or belief at school.

A coefficient of 0.50 was applied to QUESTIONS 4, 4.1 and 10.

QUESTION 2 does not receive any score as it provides background information; therefore, the question does 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 RBM RIGHTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS of the page POLICY AREAS.

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CLUSTER A: RELIGIOUS/BELIEF INSTRUCTION

QUESTION 1 *Is religion/belief taught in public schools?*

Yes, score 1; no, score 0 (religious instruction contributes to protect RBM identity).

QUESTION 2 *What is the existing system of teaching religions/beliefs in public schools? Teaching of religions/beliefs - Teaching about religions/beliefs - Teaching of religions/beliefs as transversal subject*

No score as these different systems of religious/belief education respect international standards as long as some conditions are met (see below).

CLUSTER B AND CLUSTER C: TEACHING ABOUT RELIGIONS/BELIEFS - TEACHING OF RELIGIONS/BELIEFS AS TRANSVERSAL SUBJECT - TEACHING OF RELIGIONS/BELIEFS

QUESTION 3 *Can the religions/beliefs of the following RBMs be taught in public schools?*

Depending on the number of RBMs whose religion/belief can be taught, the following scores are given: score 0, no RBM; score 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; score 0.66, from 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; score 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs.

In countries where this teaching is provided only if requested by a minimum number of students (as in Finland, Portugal and Romania), the score is reduced by half.

QUESTION 4 *Are they taught within or outside the school timetable?*

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

QUESTION 4.1 *Are they taught for how many hours per week?*

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, score -0.50; if the number of hours depends on the number of students who require the teaching, score -0.50.

QUESTION 5 *Are they taught only if a minimum number of students require the teaching?*

If no minimum number of students is required, score 0; if a minimum number is required, score -0.50.

QUESTION 6 *Are teachers paid by school/State or by RBMs?*

If teachers are paid by State/school. score 1; if they are paid by RBMs, score 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 *Are teachers of the following RBMs paid by the school/State?*

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

CLUSTER D: RIGHT TO BE EXEMPTED FROM RELIGIOUS/BELIEF INSTRUCTION

QUESTION 7 *Do students have the right to opt out from the teaching of/about religions/beliefs?*

Countries with a system of teaching of religion/belief: yes, score 0; no, score -1.

Countries with a system of teaching about religions/beliefs or teaching of religion as a transversal subject: in both cases the score is 0 (exemption is not required by international standards).

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 *Do students who are members of the following RBMs have the right to opt out from the teaching of/about religions/beliefs?*

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

CLUSTER E: MANIFESTATIONS OF RELIGION/BELIEF

QUESTIONS 8 *Can teachers wear religious/belief symbols when giving classes?*

QUESTION 8.1 *Can teachers who are members of the following RBMs wear the symbols of their religion/belief?*

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 *Can students wear religious/belief symbols at school?*

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

In Belgium, where the students of the Flemish school do not enjoy this right, the score is reduced by half.

QUESTION 9.1 *Can students who are members of the following RBMs wear the symbols of their religion/belief at school?*

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

QUESTION 10 *Do schools officially display religious/belief symbols?*

Score 0, if the display of religious/belief symbols is forbidden (international standards are respected); score -1, if schools are obliged to display the symbols of the majority religion only; score 1, if there is no provision forbidding or allowing the display of religious/belief symbols.

On the meaning of “officially displayed” see the paragraph devoted to RELIGIOUS/BELIEF SYMBOLS in 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 *Can symbols of the following RBMs be officially displayed in schools?*

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

QUESTIONS 11 *Can teachers refrain from giving classes on occasion of their RBM festivities?*

QUESTION 12 *Can students refrain from attending classes on occasion of their RBMs festivities?*

Yes, score 1; no, score 0.

In Belgium, where students enjoy this right only in Flanders, the score of QUESTION 12 is reduced by half.

QUESTIONS 11.1 *Can teachers who are members of the following RBMs refrain from giving classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion/belief?*

QUESTION 12.1 *Can students who are members of the following RBMs refrain from attending classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion/belief?*

Depending on the number of RBMs whose members (teachers or students) enjoy this right, the following scores are given: score 0, no RBM; score 0.33, one RBM up to 1/3 of all RBMs; score 0.66, from 1/3 to 2/3 of RBMs; score 1, more than 2/3 of RBMs; score N/A, if teachers or students do not have this right.

QUESTION 13 *Do students have the right to obtain food that is not forbidden by their RBM prescriptions?*

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 *Do students who are members of the following RBMs have the right to obtain food that is not forbidden by their RBM prescriptions?*

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

E-INDEX AND G-INDEX

Only the questions with a score different from that given in the P-index are listed.

CLUSTER B AND CLUSTER C: TEACHING ABOUT RELIGIONS/BELIEFS - TEACHING OF RELIGIONS/BELIEFS AS TRANSVERSAL SUBJECT - TEACHING OF RELIGIONS/BELIEFS

QUESTION 3 *Can the religions/beliefs of the following RBMs be taught in public schools?*

Score 1 to each RBM whose doctrine is taught; score -1 to each RBM whose doctrine is not taught; score 0.50 to each RBM whose doctrine is taught only if there is a minimum number of students who request the teaching.

QUESTION 4 *Are they taught within or outside the school timetable?*

Score 1 to each RBM whose doctrine is taught within the school timetable; score -1 to each RBM whose doctrine is taught outside the timetable; score N/A, if the RBM does not have the right to teach its doctrine.

QUESTION 6.1 *Are teachers of the following RBMs paid by the school/State?*

Score 1 to each RBM whose teachers are paid by the school/state; score -1 to each RBM whose teachers are not paid by the school/state; score N/A, if no teaching is provided.

CLUSTER D: RIGHT TO BE EXEMPTED FROM RELIGIOUS/BELIEF INSTRUCTION

QUESTION 7.2 *Do students who are members of the following RBMs have the right to opt out from the teaching of religion/belief?*

Teaching of religion: score 1 to each RBM whose members (students) enjoy the right; score -1 to each RBM whose members (students) do not enjoy this right.

Teaching about religions/beliefs and teaching of religion as a transversal subject: score N/A to each RBM if exemption is not granted (QUESTION 7); score 1 to each RBM whose members (students) enjoy the right if exemption is granted (QUESTION 7).

CLUSTER E: MANIFESTATIONS OF RELIGION/BELIEF

QUESTION 9.1 *Can students who are members of the following RBMs wear the symbols of their religion/belief at school?*

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

QUESTION 10.1 *Can symbols of the following RBMs be officially displayed in schools?*

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

QUESTIONS 11.1 *Can teachers who are members of the following RBMs refrain from giving classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion/belief?*

QUESTION 12.1 *Can students who are members of the following RBMs refrain from attending classes on occasion of the festivities of their religion/belief?*

Score 1 to each RBM to which the teachers or students entitled to abstain from teaching or school attendance on their religious holidays belong; score -1 to each RBM to which the teachers or students who do not enjoy this right belong; score N/A, if teachers or students are not entitled to abstain from teaching or school attendance on their religious holidays.

QUESTION 13.1 *Do students who are members of the following RBMs have the right to obtain food that is not forbidden by their RBM prescriptions?*

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