



**Republic of Serbia**  
**QUALIFICATIONS AGENCY**  
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## **BASIC INFORMATION**

### **What is the procedure for recognizing foreign primary school documents?**

Recognition of a foreign school certificate is the process by which a school certificate obtained abroad is equated with the corresponding valid public document of the Republic of Serbia and thereby granting an individual the right to continue education and/or gain employment

### **Who has the right to submit a request for the recognition of foreign school certificates?**

The right to recognition of a foreign school certificate is granted to:

- a citizen of the Republic of Serbia,
- a foreign citizen or a stateless person, provided they have a legitimate interest.

### **Which school certificates are subject to the recognition process?**

The recognition process applies to:

- school certificates obtained abroad,
- school certificates obtained from foreign institutions in the Republic of Serbia that have been authorized to operate by the Ministry responsible for education, in accordance with Article 96 of the Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System ("Official Gazette of RS," Nos. 88/2017, 27/2018 - other laws, 10/2019, 6/2020, 129/2021, 92/2023). This article defines a foreign institution as one that implements a program created and accredited abroad and which can be established by a foreign or domestic legal or natural entity. The Ministry of Education maintains a registry of foreign institutions.

### **What is recognized in the process of recognizing foreign school certificates?**

In the recognition process, the entire education or specific grades completed abroad or in a foreign primary school in the Republic of Serbia are recognized. For shorter period of schooling (such as a semester or shorter classification periods), it is not possible to recognize the foreign school certificate through this process.

## How is the recognition of foreign school certificates carried out?

The recognition of foreign school certificates takes into account:

1. the education system of the foreign country,
2. the duration of education,
3. the curriculum and syllabus,
4. the rights granted by the foreign school certificate and other circumstances relevant to the decision-making process.

If it is determined during the process that the foreign curriculum significantly deviates from the domestic one with which it is being compared, recognition is conditional upon passing certain exams, completing specific assignments, or demonstrating knowledge.

Primary school students from Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Republic of North Macedonia, who started their education under the reformed nine-year education system, continue their education in the Republic of Serbia in the appropriate grade according to the primary education system in Serbia. It should be noted that the curriculum of the first grade of primary school completed in Montenegro, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Slovenia and North Macedonia corresponds to the preschool education curriculum in the Republic of Serbia.

## Which regulations apply in the process of recognizing foreign school certificates?

The recognition of foreign school certificates is carried out based on:

- The **Law on the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Serbia** ("Official Gazette of RS", Nos. 27/2018, 6/2020, 129/2021 – other laws, 76/2023);  
The **Law on General Administrative Procedure** ("Official Gazette of RS", Nos. 18/2016, 95/2018 – authentic interpretation, 2/2023 - decision of the Constitutional Court);
- Recognized international agreements;
- The **Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System** ("Official Gazette of RS", Nos. 88/2017, 27/2018 – other laws, 10/2019, 6/2020, 129/2021, 92/2023).

Article 34, paragraphs 1, 2, and 4 of the **Law on the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Serbia** ("Official Gazette of RS", Nos. 27/2018 and 6/2020) stipulates that a citizen of the Republic of Serbia who has completed primary school or a specific grade of school abroad, or who has completed a foreign primary school or specific grades of school in the Republic of Serbia, has the right to request the recognition of the foreign primary school certificate obtained.

Article 136, paragraph 1 of the **Law on General Administrative Procedure** ("Official Gazette of RS", Nos. 18/2016 and 95/2018 – authentic interpretation) stipulates that a decision is made regarding the right, obligation, or legal interest of the party.

## Which school certificates are not subject to the recognition process?

School certificates that are not subject to the recognition process include:

- Diplomas and certificates obtained in Montenegro during the existence of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro (up to and including the 2005/2006 school year);
- Diplomas and certificates obtained during the existence of the SFRY (up to April 27, 1992) in the former republics;
- Certificates and diplomas obtained in the Republic of Srpska (considering that primary education in the Republic of Srpska is nine years long, students continuing their education in Serbia transfer to the corresponding grade in accordance with the primary education system in Serbia) based on the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Educational Documents and the Regulation of the Status of Students and Pupils (Official Gazette of RS, No. 79/2005).

## What is an APOSTILLE?

An **Apostille** is a certification that, according to the Hague Convention on the Abolition of the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (1961), confirms the authenticity of the signature, the capacity of the signatory of a public document, and the genuineness of the seal or stamp on the document, instead of the legalization of public documents in international legal traffic. A document certified with this stamp is exempt from any further certification and is suitable for use in all countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention. The Apostille certification is performed exclusively by the competent authorities in the country where the public document was issued.

The original foreign school certificate, diploma, or the last completed grade must be certified with an Apostille stamp in the country where the grade or level of education was completed, except for countries with which the Republic of Serbia has bilateral agreements on the mutual exemption from the legalization of public documents. These countries are: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, North Macedonia, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, France, Croatia, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia.

You can access the list of countries that are signatories to the Hague Convention via the following link:

<https://www.mpravde.gov.rs/tekst/861/legalizacija-isprava-.php>

For all other countries that are not listed in the list of signatory countries of the Hague Convention and the list of countries with which the Republic of Serbia has signed bilateral agreements on the mutual exemption from the legalization of public documents, full legalization of public documents is required.