Leggi e ascolta.

Education in the USA

American High Schools

Most American children go to school from the age of 6 to 18. Most schools are state funded and only 10% of students go to private schools. American students go to high school when they are 14. Each year of high school has a special name. First year students, in the 9th Grade, are in the Freshman year (this is the name for girls as well as boys!).

The school day

The school day for most high school students starts at 8 a.m. and finishes at about 3 p.m. Most students at state schools don’t wear uniforms, but students at private schools usually do. Many students go to school on a school bus – these are usually yellow. There is often an American flag at the front of the classroom. Students begin the day by ‘pledging allegiance’ to the flag. They stand in front of the flag and promise to be good Americans.
Students have five or six lessons a day, with a break for lunch in the cafeteria (the American word for canteen). American students must study English, Health, Mathematics, P.E., Science, and Social Science. They can also study optional subjects, called electives, for example music or a foreign language.

After school activities

At the end of the day, many students stay at school for extra-curricular activities. Many students do sports, for example American football and basketball. Music clubs and theatre are popular after school activities, too. There are also science and language clubs and some schools have a school newspaper.

Higher education

About 70% of students go to college or university. However, universities can be very expensive. The cheapest universities are state universities. In California, for example, students pay about $5,000 a year to go to university. Private universities, such as Harvard and Yale, are a lot more expensive. They often cost more than $50,000 a year! Many students work while they are studying, so some university courses take six or seven years to complete.